

SSS INTERNATIONAL

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Father Sebastião ‘Tiãozinho’ Leite Mezencio Machado, sss *General Treasurer*

Alpinópolis (Brazil) 6 June 1946 - Rome 14 August 2016

Father Sebastião Leite Mezencio Machado (Tiãozinho) was born in Alpinópolis (Minas Gerais) in Brazil on 6 June 1946.

On 1 March 1973 he entered the novitiate of the Province of Holy Cross of the Blessed Sacrament Congregation, where a year later he made his vows of First Profession. He then went to Rome to complete his studies of theology and made his Perpetual Profession on 22 February 1977.

After returning to Brazil he was ordained a deacon on 25 February 1978 and was ordained a priest on 8 July of the same year.

In 1981 he became a Provincial Consultor until 1986, Provincial Treasurer in 1992, and Provincial Superior of the Brazilian Province of Holy Cross from 1995 to 2002.

Finally, he was elected as General Treasurer of the Congregation at the General Chapter of 2005, and reconfirmed in this role at the Chapter of 2011.

During his 38 years of priesthood he fulfilled various ecclesial ministries: many times as formator of young religious, director of the scholasticate, parish collaborator, parish priest, coordinator of the clergy. In all these he was known for his social commitment towards the poor and for his spirit of enterprise in setting up new pastoral structures.

He left us suddenly during the night of Saturday 13 to Sunday 14 August 2016.

May he rest in peace.



RETURN TO HIS NATIVE LAND

After all the necessary arrangements about transferring Father Tiãozinho to Brazil, his requiem was celebrated on 24 August 2016 in the parish church of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament and Blessed Canadian Martyrs, Via Giovanni Battista de Rossi, Rome.

Immediately afterwards, the deceased was taken to the airport for his journey to Brazil, arriving on 26 August at Alpinópolis (Minas Gerais), his native town, where he was finally buried in the family tomb.

On 26 August 2016 Mass was celebrated in the main church of Alpinópolis at 5 p.m., presided over by the parish priest and concelebrated with the bishop of Paracatu, Dom Jorge Bezerra sss, with many priests of the diocese and other dioceses, as well as with confreres of the Blessed Sacrament Congregation. Here is the tribute paid to him at the end of the celebration of his funeral.

Heaven is in festivity, because it is welcoming a person who has remained faithful to God's plan on earth, accomplishing his mission with love and devoutly.

Simplicity was the most remarkable feature of Father Tiãozinho's personality, his manner of dressing, speaking, celebrating, and also in his relations with people. Being called Father Tiãozinho reveals his simple gestures, without formalities, fraternal and paternal with others, with an attentiveness, cordiality and a respect for differences between persons and opinions; he showed this by his actions, doing everything with joy.

Wisdom was his other characteristic, comprising of intelligence, logical and practical reason, and a real, not theoretic, philosophy. He was dynamic, watchful, and sharing was one of his favourite words to encourage young persons to live in community, to share with others in overcoming individualism, and in dialoguing in a relaxed and positive way, always with some lessons.

Service was a constant aspect of his life, without counting the cost to himself. He helped priests in other parishes. He carried out various roles in the Congregation, but an important service for SSS religious was the friendship offered to other religious. He was always merciful with everyone. He worked for unity and union among all.

All that was without ever forgetting his family, where everything began and which, thanks to the education and love that he received, made him the great man and priest who today, despite the sadness that we feel by being separated from him, we are convinced is now near the Father, leaving us an example of prayer, faith, service, love, friendship, simplicity and joy.





Witnesses of our pilgrim brothers after their journey through the Eymardian places

“Our vocation is to walk, a journey, a pilgrimage. We are invited to be always on the move.”

To live this Blessed Sacrament charismatic experience draws its significance from the “facts of the life of Fr Eymard, the spirituality, the places he passed through, the landscapes, they are one thing, a coherent whole that speaks to us (cf. Annie Coppens-Baten, *When the cedars speak*). This means to live and remember baptism, the starting point, the vocational option. As it is well known, La Mure is a small town where Fr Eymard was born. The chapel recalls his baptism, his confirmation, his Eucharistic piety. This reality challenges my life, always on the road and in search, both with failures and successes. Eymard had a restless journey, moved by the Spirit, to respond to the significance of his baptism. To live a Blessed Sacrament charismatic experience is to go in pilgrimage with the Founder. It means:

To Depart: leave a home, like Abraham was told “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you” (Gen 12:1).

To walk: is to make the journey, to go from sanctuary to sanctuary, from place to place. This supposes to walk freely, like Israel in the desert, to journey like the disciples with Jesus, following him, knowing that in the end we are called to participate in his passion.

To Remain: to take time, his time: “Master, where do you live? – come and you will see, he replied. So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent the day with him” (Jn 1:38-40).

As an SSS religious, an important aspect of this experience was the constant invitation to be always on the move. This means, to be aware of our charism and to update it as a living reality. We are aware of its origin in history that challenges our present, motivates and moves us to be always seeking to renew and improve the path undertaken. We are invited to become protagonists and responsible for the journey of being a Blessed Sacrament religious. I discovered in each Blessed Sacrament community these features: attitude of being welcoming, simplicity, humility in living the charism, teaching the Renewed

Eucharistic Spirituality as well as possible, living in fraternity, prayer and service. Confreres who despite their advanced age actualize and live the charism, in the joy of table fellowship, in their fidelity to prayer and responsibility of service.

The Congregation and the Province provide the means to live this experience in the Eymardian places. Here the contents of what is offered are well organized, as is the presentation. The logistics and the organization are good. I think, after this experience, that some things could be improved. What is the contribution of the religious to the Province that lives the experience, in exercising of how to project the charism in his province today? Not to fall merely into repeating the story, it is good to remember and keep a record. Similarly: What interest does the religious have to learn the language (French) of the Founder and to deepen the studies about him? I think this is lacking on the part of a religious who goes through this experience.



The experience lived in the Eymardian places inspires me to contemplate and to undertake pastoral initiatives with a Blessed Sacrament colour, as for example, at a Provincial level, to strengthen the Blessed Sacrament laity, with the School of Eucharistic formation (pastoral workers); in the community, to nourish a Blessed Sacrament identity (history – memory); in the parish, to stimulate Formation in Eucharistic Spirituality. Finally, the content of Eymardian spirituality drew attention to keep on deepening more appreciation for the History and the developing of “Love” in Eucharistic catechesis.

FR ANYEL HUMBERTO MESA G., SSS
LIMA, PERU

'Once upon a time' at La Mure d'Isère

While all eyes in France were fixed on the event of the European Cup, an occasion of great excitement and enthusiasm for the French people, **from July 6 to 15, 2016**, some religious, sisters and laity of the Eymardian family chose this time to plunge deeply into Eymard's spirituality: "I have made the perpetual vow of my personality to Our Lord Jesus Christ".

All this took place in the intimacy of the family home of Father Eymard, a place of memory where he passed the last hours of his life; a true Bethlehem, a house of bread, a house of the word where we were adequately nourished by Father Manuel Barbiero, who is a great travel companion and experienced exponent on Father Eymard's teaching about the "gift of self".

A mixed international group comprised of brothers and sisters coming from different horizons: Fathers Bengui Claude Micky, Onuoha Cyriaque, Passy Jean De Dieu, from Congo Brazzaville; Father Anaclet Bambala, the Provincial Superior of the Democratic Republic of Congo; Sister Mary Ann Mateo, an SSS Sister Servant from the Philippines; Sister Agnès Không Thi Huyền, an SSS Sister Servant from Vietnam; Marie-Thérèse Joubert, from La Mure, and Sandrine Treuillard, from Paris, both French lay persons.



Through passages of the Great Retreat of Rome, like the disciples of Emmaus, we encountered Father Eymard, sharing his dream and his great discovery: the gift of his personality and the interior cenacle, which for Father Eymard represented the key of his whole life, a new way, and the characteristic virtue that he wanted to teach to all who desire to share his ideal in living. This can be summed up in a word: love, but the royal love. Threading through this great discovery was the text of Gal 2:20: "It is no longer I who live, but Jesus Christ who lives in me".

This was a great occasion of discussion, sharing, prayer and visits to the significant places that deeply shaped Father Eymard. First of all, Saint-Romans, where he touched "his mystic rock and his chapel", and contemplated the "oak of friendship", a secret witness of a pure friendship, recalling to us the house of Madam Nathalie Jordan. Then we visited the shrine of Our Lady of Laus, which recalled to us the famous pilgrimage, passing by the shrine of Our Lady of La Salette, the chapel of adoration at Grenoble, where Father Eymard celebrated his last Mass on 21 July 1868, the Calvary of La Mure and its three crosses overlooking the city. All these sites enabled us to enter, so to speak, into the mystical perspective of St Peter-Julian Eymard.

What we saw, what we heard, what we felt, we have interiorized as eloquently proclaiming the "gift of personality" that springs from this contemplation. Like the Roman Centurion, we can say: "Truly Peter Julian Eymard was a Saint". Thanks to Father Manuel Barbiero and to the Eymard Centre of Spirituality for welcoming and being available to us. We will eternally remember the experience.

FR JEAN DE DIEU PASSY, SSS
BRAZZAVILLE, CONGO



5th Walk "in the footsteps of Father Eymard" 30 July 2016

Our walk this year took us to Monteynard where Father Eymard was parish priest from 1837 to 1839. Thirty-four walkers, accompanied by a welcoming logistic team, began the route after a time of prayer in the Eymard chapel. In keeping with the Year of Mercy we were inspired by a meditation of Father Eymard: "God assures us that he is infinitely merciful... His love is eternal... Mercy saves... this is the mercy of a father. The kindness of a tender father. Moreover, God's tenderness is all goodness: no one is so fatherly, no one is so caring".

The route, accessible to many people, led us to the old station, to arrive at Paradise, then to the Merlins and father Bonnet's hut (Treize Bises). We shared our picnic at the Arboretum. In the afternoon we reached the church of Monteynard by way of Ruisseaux, Béthoux along the railway track and the shore of the Crozet.

The prayer in the chapel with which our walk began followed a time of silence to foster the spirit of fraternal and friendliness of the group. "The most striking moment for me was that of praying in the chapel, which was a most moving time of recollection, and all along the way leading us to Monteynard there was an experience of empathy and cordiality". "A wonderful day of sharing, prayers, singing and working together". "This walk enabled me to converse and share with other persons whom I didn't know, so an opening up to others was very enriching".

Let's not forget the team that accompanied us or went ahead of us with physical comfort, encouragement and smiles. "Thanks for their enthusiasm, kindness, fresh water and watermelon". "This walk in 'the colours of Mercy' was very like our life: marked by pleasant moments, or on the contrary, by difficulties of journeying, many and varied; through smiles or lending a hand; because of a ray of unexpected light between the leaves, or unlikely traces of a little trail that makes us go on dreaming...".

In the end, "after the effort, the solace", near Jesus Eucharistic. A large gathering was waiting for us to take part at Mass and bring the walkers back to La Mure. In conclusion: "I needed this prayerful walk that enabled me to be in harmony with nature and other people in the Father's love and peace". "Thanks to the Association, the organisers, for this walk, the warm atmosphere, prayers and all these moments of sharing. It is a great joy that God gives us as an instant of eternity".

MRS BRIGITTE CASSARD
ASSOCIATION OF THE FRIENDS OF FR EYMARD
IN MATHEYSINE



Eurocamp Yes... Eurocamp No...

*"Dear friends,
you are called to a particular service
of proclaiming, animating
and witnessing to youth,
that is characterized by the Eucharistic spirituality.
The Lord renews in you the gift of his Spirit
in order to strengthen you in your purpose
and to sustain you in his grace.
Receive this anointing on your hands:
conform your life to the Word that you will listen to,
make beautiful and useful what you'll do,
spread the fragrance of the Love that envelopes you."*



With these words and the gestures that accompanied them (anointing of hands with fragrant oil, handing on of the Project of Life for lay associates and the pin with the SSS logo) the Eucharistic celebration closed on **Saturday 6 August 2016**, at the conclusion of this 31st Eurocamp. This "special" meeting was necessary to verify the validity of this experience at the service of youth and to evaluate a possible future. The community of St Agatha welcomed us with its usual fraternity: some young people have called it "our home".

We weren't so many: about twenty people comprising the animators and some young people whom we called together, representatives from Italy, Scotland, the Czech Republic, Germany and Spain, who in recent years have shown their willingness to take on responsibility as animators. The fragrance of the oil of nard with which we anointed their hands (symbol of "doing") spread immediately through the church, just

as it had filled the house of Mary, Martha and Lazarus at Bethany (cf. Jn 12:3). A hope for the young people was that the mission which we have entrusted to them would become a “pleasing presence”, fragrant, attractive and loving for all, especially for those who in the future would take part in the Eurocamp, and for those they will meet in their daily lives.

This daily life ought to begin from the Eucharistic spirituality described and proposed by the Project of Life that our Congregation entrusts to laity who share with us the ideals, values and lifestyle in the world. Young people were surprised and moved in receiving this “mandate” at the end of a week (31 July – 6 August), during which it was experienced in living, reflecting, being studied, prayed together through seeking for “new modalities” to organize the Eurocamp. Two of them will become part of the central team. Another will immediately be involved, together with his friends, in looking for and finding where the Eurocamp will take place in 2017, which we would like to be in Scotland. This entails ensuring all that pertains to the logistics. And then other youth have expressed their availability regarding caring for translations, publicity, website, contacting other young persons, local churches, and everything that will foster promoting the future of this experience, so that the 30 years of its story could be continued thanks to our and their service.



On the first two days of the camp we tried to understand the old and new needs of young people, above all in regard to the Church and the Eurocamp. The story of so many friends, who in the course of thirty years have enriched us by their presence, has helped us to outline with a reasonable certitude the directions of the following camps, the values to be proposed, the experiences to be presented. On the two following days, with the help of two SSS friends, we wanted to study a bit in depth the Eucharist. Father Vittore Boccardi, the secretary of the Committee of International Eucharistic Congresses,

presented a talk entitled “The Eucharist, womb of the Church”. This provided an important teaching since it enabled us to capture a rapid view about life in the Church today and about so many ecclesial documents that speak of this Sacrament. Father Mario Vecchiato was with us on 4 August. With his usual enthusiasm he gave us a profound meditation on the Eucharist for daily living. After a very fruitful dialogue, we were engaged in preparing the evening celebration, in which friends from the parish participated.

The last two days, finally, were dedicated to preparing the “personal response” to the question “Eurocamp Yes... Eurocamp No...”. We were hoping for a “YES” from at least some of the young people who were invited. But it was very moving that we received their unanimous “YES” to be committed to this project according to the availability as I described above. We said goodbye to one another with great smiles and interior joy, a fruit of a shared and generous decision to remain committed to proclaim the Eucharist to young people today throughout Europe. This signifies a future of wanting to live together, ready to do everything so that the Eurocamp may live and be always more an occasion of meeting with God’s love and the gospel of the Eucharist. We ask you who are reading this to be close to us and help us with prayer and support to respond to God’s call and that of young people.

FR MAURIZIO ZORZI, SSS
BLESSED CANADIAN MARTYRS’ CHURCH, ROME



Nine days with St. Peter Julian Eymard

We, the novices of the Blessed Sacrament Novitiate Community, prepared for the Solemnity of St. Peter Julian Eymard, by reflecting on his life, entitled *Nine Days with SPJE*. Thanks to the input prepared by Rev. Fr. Manuel Barbiero sss named “Fifteen days with St. Peter Julian Eymard”, we took nine themes from that list and spread it out through the nine days. Our presentation was in the form of mime, drama, shadow play, use of the uv lights, video clippings, and songs. Let each member of the presentation theme now say something about his experience in preparing and presenting the same.

FR EYMARD: I am a regent in this community. And in playing the part of St. Peter Julian Eymard, I felt that passion, that enthusiasm for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and the Eucharist beginning to inflame me and I felt that I needed to develop my creative ability to translate the Eucharistic charism into some concrete apostolate.

COMMENTATOR: I am a novice. While practicing the reading and on actually doing it at the presentation during the nine days, I felt blessed because I was actually reliving the life of St. Peter Julian Eymard, which was more concrete and alive, than merely reading about his life in books. This part of the presentation was like solid 'meat' - the life of St. Peter Julian Eymard and its relevance to the Church after Vatican II - for the whole project.

LIGHTS AND PROPS IN CHARGE: I am a novice. Right through the preparation and presentation I was constantly imagining how things would have been in time of St. Peter Julian Eymard. And so when we prepared the mountains, or showed people struggling to reach the summit of perfection or when preparing the lit fires which were found in the different parts of the chapel, to bring out the concept of 'the hearth has a flame', I felt thrilled that I made a choice of joining this Congregation.

SOUND AND MUSIC IN CHARGE: I am a novice. It was a wonderful opportunity for me to select pictures, video clippings and songs that brought out the relevance of St. Peter Julian's charism. It made me actually get into the skin of St. Peter Julian Eymard. For instance, when Peter Julian was expressing his response to the passionate love of Jesus, we played a clipping of the scourging of Jesus from the *Passion of the Christ* which was accompanied by the song *Above all*, I too could feel with Peter Julian how much Jesus loved me.

MIME: We are two novices who had the privilege of miming the words of Peter Julian Eymard, "I now no longer live...". We felt such a desire of becoming one with Jesus that we felt that He and He alone should control our lives.

HELPERS: We are novices. Although we did not have a prominent role to play in the presentation and were the handymen getting the scenes ready for each day's presentation, we were proud that we could help in making Peter Julian Eymard and his passion for the Eucharist known.

DIRECTOR: I am a solemnly professed religious. When bringing out this presentation especially on the Eucharistic charism and apostolate of Fr. Eymard, I felt thrilled at the opening our Eucharistic catechesis has and its scope therefore for attracting more talented men to this kind of apostolate; for this would mean that we would need graphic experts, song and play writers, men talented in TV and radio production, music composers, instrument players, book writers,

men who can speak and act and mime... and so on and so forth.

The themes selected for the nine days were: (1) Baptism, (2) The Word of God, (3) God's love, (4) The hearth has a flame, (5) Adoration, (6) Eucharist for the weak and the strong, (7) The gift of self, (8) Man hungers for God, and (9) Mary.

8 August 2016

THE SSS NOVICES OF GOA



Appointment of the new General Treasurer

Following the consultation of the Amplified General Council about the appointment of the new General Treasurer, the General Council of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament elected Father PHILIP BENZY ROMICIAN SSS as General Treasurer on 12 September 2016. His mandate will be valid until the next General Chapter of 2017.



Here is his e-mail address: ecogen@curiasss.net



Anniversary of Fr Harrie Verhoeven SSS

At Nijmegen on Tuesday 26 July 2016 Father Harrie Verhoeven celebrated his sixty years of priestly ordination. This great festive occasion was in the presence of the Superior General, Father Eugênio Barbosa Martins, the General Consultor for Europe, Father Giulio Maccali, the Provincial Superior, Father Maurits Gijsbrechts and Bishop Jan van Burgsteden. Also present were Cardinal A. Simonis and Bishop Ad van Luijn. Father Harrie was likewise surrounded by

many confreres, members of his family and friends at this magnificent festivity.



Father Harrie Verhoeven was born on 26 December 1929 at Overloon. He made his first profession on 14 September 1951 and was ordained a priest on 26 July 1956 at Nijmegen. He was the Superior General from 1969 to 1981, after which he continued his service to the Congregation as Provincial Vicar (1993-1999) and Provincial Superior (1999-2005) of the Province of St Joseph (Holland-Germany).



We join in the joy of this anniversary celebration of his 60th year of priesthood with our prayers for his worthwhile continuation in ministry at the service of the Church and the Congregation.



SSS General Curia Rome

We inform you that the General Secretariat has definitively ended the FAX communication. Henceforth, the number 06.44.23.79.58 does no longer function.

We remind you of our e-mail addresses:

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Barbiero / Sagesse de vie



The death of a brother will be celebrated as a Paschal event filled with hope. We shall faithfully carry out the prescribed prayers for our deceased (RL 13).

N. 1501 - Father Sebastião MACHADO L. M.

Province: General Curia
Community: Rome, Italy
Death: 14 August 2016
Age: 70
Profession: 42
Priesthood: 38

N. 1502 - Father Juan Victor AROCENA

Province: O.L. of the Blessed Sacrament
Community: Tolosa, Spain
Death: 20 September 2016
Age: 81
Profession: 62
Priesthood: 56