



Congregazione dei Rogazionisti

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Rome, 19 March 2014
Solemnity of St. Joseph

Prot. N. 84/14

Re. : Transfer of the remains of the Servant of God, Fr Giuseppe Marrazzo

To the Most Rev. Superiors
of the Rogationist Circumcriptions
To the Rogationist Communities
To the Family of the Rogate
THEIR HOUSES

Dearest,

On November 30, 1992, Fr. Giuseppe Marrazzo peacefully fell asleep in the Lord, under the shadow of the Shrine of St. Anthony of Messina, where he had served the Lord and the faithful for almost fifty years, leaving an edifying testimony of his extraordinary priestly and religious virtues.

During his funeral, in the afternoon of the following day, the sanctuary was filled by an unexpected crowd, which has overflowed to the adjacent streets. Afterwards, his body was accompanied, almost in a procession, by a large number of devotees to the Grand Cemetery of Messina.

Father Marrazzo, who was tireless in his apostolate and intimately united to the Lord, had always lived in humility and simplicity. In the years that followed his death, many who had known him and had enjoyed his friendship and spiritual guidance, have been seen staying in prayer in a corner of the shrine where he had regularly administered the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

In 2002, on the 10th anniversary of his death, there was a widespread reputation of holiness around the figure of Father Marrazzo. A need was felt to organize his commemoration and a spontaneous initiative came from among the faithful, who gathered 8,000 signatures to request the opening of the process of canonization and the transfer of his remains in the Shrine of St. Anthony.

On July 25, 2006, the Archbishop of Messina, Msgr. Giovanni Marra, signed the decree for the opening of the process of the Cause of Canonization. Consecutively, his successor, Archbishop Calogero La Piana, ordered the opening of the process on May 5, 2008.

Since that date, while the testimonies are successively heard during the sessions of the diocesan process, the General Postulation has initiated the gathering of the writings of the Servant of God and promoted the knowledge about this extraordinary figure of a holy priest, apostle of the sacrament of reconciliation.

In March 2009, the Superior General, Fr. Giorgio Nalin, granting the request of the Provincial Superior of the Central-Southern Italian Province, Fr. Francesco Bruno, has authorized to start the procedure to request the transfer of Father Joseph Marrazzo's remains to the Basilica Shrine of St. Anthony of Messina. Later, under my mandate, the General Postulator, Fr. Agostino Zamperini submitted a formal request to the Archbishop of Messina on November 30, 2012, the 20th anniversary of the pious passing

