



RENEWING OUR COMMITMENT TO THE CAUSE OF OUR FOUNDER

LETTER OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF SAINT PAUL

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Peace be with you!

With this letter, I would like to share with you the **encouraging progress** being made in the Cause for the Canonization of our Founder. At the same time, I warmly invite you to renew your commitment in spreading devotion towards him.

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to pay **a courtesy visit to the Postulator of the Cause**, Fr. Josef Sciberras OSA. Fr. Josef serves as the Postulator General of the Augustinian Order and resides at the Augustinian Generalate, just a few meters from the Vatican. He has held this role for the past 12 years and has overseen numerous causes for canonization, especially those of individuals from the Augustinian family. It is worth noting that he was nominated to this office by the current Pope, who was then Prior General of the Order.

During our meeting, Fr. Josef explained that **all the necessary documentation from our Society has now been submitted** and properly presented. This achievement is thanks, first and foremost, to the dedicated work of the late Fr. Tony Sciberras, who poured his heart into this Cause. We also owe much to the sterling work of Fr. Mario Zammit, who ensured that all collected materials were aligned with the guidelines set by the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.

The next step in the process is for Fr. Josef to finalize the Positio and submit it to the Dicastery. He assured us that he intends to complete this task by next year. **His hope is that, by 2027, our Founder will be declared Venerable**—an important milestone on the path toward beatification. This would be a tremendous gift to all of us, especially as 2027 marks two significant anniversaries: the 150th anniversary of the birth of our Founder, and the 100th anniversary of the missioning of Bro. Joseph Caruana to Abyssinia.

In light of this, **Fr. Josef is calling on us all to actively promote the Cause.** First and foremost, we must continue to pray for the successful advancement of the Cause, that—if it is God's will—our Founder may one day be venerated among the saints of the Church. Additionally, we must renew our efforts to promote devotion towards him and to carefully document any graces received through his intercession.

As both Fr. Tony and Fr. Mario have often stressed, **having a well-documented list of graces received through our Founder's intercession is an essential component of the *Positio*.** Currently, this remains the weakest section of the *Positio*, and Fr. Josef expressed the hope that we might significantly strengthen this area by the time of submission.

Therefore, **I encourage all of you to continue sharing the material produced** by the Postulation and by each region regarding our Founder. One recent example is the multilingual prayer card containing a relic of the Founder. Furthermore, please communicate any graces received to the Postulation. Those wishing to do so may contact Fr. Mario Zammit, Vice-Postulator of the Cause, at mario.zammit@hotmail.com, and he will provide guidance on how best to proceed.

On my part, I will be discussing with each regional administration how we can better support and facilitate this process.

One such way could be what Fr. Mario recently proposed in the communication he sent to all members on 2 June 2025. **Each regional administration can commit itself to collect together all those initiatives in the region that throughout the years have promoted our Founder.** In his communication he mentions Houses, Churches, Chapels, Social Programs, statues, busts, painting, engravings, publications, printed pictures etc, that bear the name or image of our Founder. This list, together with the accompanying documentation as indicated, can be sent to Fr. Mario so that they can be included in the *Positio*, to further strengthen the section on the Fama Sanctitatis.

I would like to conclude this letter by sharing again the **prayer** prepared by the Postulation through the intercession of Joseph De Piro:

Lord Jesus, let my heart be similar to yours, enkindle me with your love, so that I may be your disciple and follow you wherever you go. Help me to spread in the world the fragrance of your love. Give me the gift of your Holy Spirit as my companion and guide. Through the intercession of your Servant Joseph De Piro grant me the grace I am asking ... and continue to inspire and guide me so that I too may be generous and a missionary according to your heart. Amen.

Blessings to you all,

Fr Martin Galea, MSSP
Superior General