

Gratuitousness, Gratitude...



“What you have received freely, give freely”
(Mt. 1:7-8)

Francisco Butiñá y Hospital received from his family the capacity to love, work and believe, capacities which thrust him into life, contemplate the world and in the light of the Gospel, gave himself freely and generously, at the service of working women and men, a marginalized portion of the society then and now.

Freely received and welcomed in his heart the call made by Jesus to encourage the working world from the human-Christian values and **freely** offered and shared it in Salamanca with Saint Bonifacia and in Gerona with M. Isabel, who, looking at Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Nazareth, created the Shops, places where religious and young women harmonized prayer with work and shared **freely** whatever they produced with the sheltered and the unemployed youth who had no work nor place to live.

Butiñá did not expect to be admired, nor looked for **gratitude**, rather he met obstacles and difficulties as he continued animating and encouraging the Josephine Charism and, with creativity allowing the that seed to grow.

We who belong to the Josephine Family feel joyful upon deepening into the knowledge of all his personal and spiritual wealth. We express our joy and **gratitude** for the work accomplished during these years, and we support with our prayers everything that will be done onwards, trusting that Butiñá and many Josephines will bless it from heaven.

We **give thanks to God** who has accompanied and accompanies us through all these paths in the life and work of Butiñá which leave their imprint in the world of work which he loved so much.

We want to learn to offer **gratuitously** the Josephine Charism as Butiñá did and to have the courage and generosity to extend it to the poor working world who receives it **gratefully**.

Ana M^a Ferradas, ssj

Francisco

Butiñá S.J.

2019

19th of March: feast of St. Joseph

It was one of the open dates being proposed to us in the schedule of the Bishop of Gerona by which he could preside in the closing of the Diocesan phase of the Cause of beatification and canonization of Fr. Francisco Butiñá Hospital, sj., founder of our congregations Siervas and Hijas de San Jose. It was a very significant date and, therefore it was chosen to hold this ecclesial and congregational event, historical in the diocesan church and in the congregations founded by him. The cause had been introduced in the diocese in 2007.

During this long period until now, the proper normative requirement in this phase was being done: the gathering of whatever testimonial and documental proofs may be found to be basis for knowing the evangelical life, the holy life of Fr. Butiñá.

Search all the documentation —very numerous and complex— prepare and study it has required this long period of work. In the month of May 2018, it already was decided to end the phase and prepare all the conclusions pertinent to it. It can now be sent to Rome so that the cause may continue in the Congregation for the Cause of Saints.

The closing, in itself, is reduced to a simple juridical act but nothing hinders that it may be at the same time pastoral and festive in character expressing the profound significance of the promotion of a cause of beatification and canonization and of completing the stages of the same.

This called for some activities organized for the morning and the afternoon of the 19th of March.



Thus, at 11:00 in the morning, the **EUCHARIST** of the Solemnity of St. Joseph, celebrated in the parish Church of Sta. María del Turers, in Bañolas, the same place in which the servant of God received his baptism.

Fr. Butiñá had contemplated and frequently invoked "him who he believed was father of Jesus". He wanted to give the name of the Congregations and constantly proposed as model to the workers.

It was a THANKSGIVING, profound and felt, by the life and by the work of Fr. Butiñá. Thanksgiving experienced with joy, in an attitude of conversion and renewal of the charism owned by the two congregations, the siervas and the hijas de San Jose.

Mons. D. Francesc Pardo i Artigas, diocesan bishop presided.

Concelebrated with him Mons. D. Carles Soler i Perdigó, bishop Eméritos of the diocese, who had done the opening of the cause; Mn Ramon Pijoan, rector of the parish, Mn. Josep Maria Amich, Mn. Salvador Coll; Mn. Ramon Oller, Mn. Josep Puig, and members of the Tribunal Mn. Ernest Zaragoza y Mn. Cosme Badia.

A Good number of religious of other congregations, of the Society, various members of the family of Fr. Butiñá, two members of the family of M. Bonifacia who came from Salamanca, lay people connected to Josephine Congregations, religious of other congregations and faithful of Bañolas who expressed their recognition of their townmate.



From the bible texts of the liturgy, Mons. Pardo remembered essential features of the life and mission of Fr. Butiñá:

"Man of deep faith who lived his ministry as Jesuit with intensity celebrating the sacraments, preaching the word, advising, writing books and letters to help discover the will of God, to cite life happenings from an attachment to Jesus.

"...he wanted to found a Community' consecrated to prayer and manual work, taking as example the shop of Nazareth".

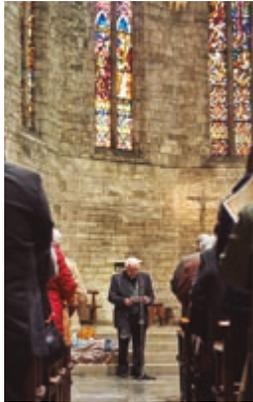
Fr. Butiñá is also "...an example of fidelity and hope... a good man" "...who allows himself to be touched by poverty and misery to which the people of the fields are destined to". One notices his clear orientation towards evangelization of the world of work... his concern for this world very especially for the women... He is pained by a woman without work qualification and exposed to all types of slavery".

"The Eucharist was channel of his passionate love for Jesus" taking him to advise frequent and daily communion which was not a custom during that time.

"Now, at the close of this diocesan process with all the documentation of the servant of God, we can announce very well that his person and his life had been for the Church, for your institutions and for the society, manifestation of the grace of God".



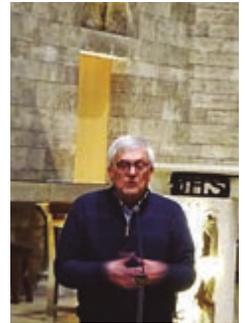
In the afternoon at 4:00 the formal and institutional act of the actual **CLOSING** started in the same parish of Santa María.



It was started by the Bishop with a short **prayer** invoking the assistance of the Lord in this act which was ending the work of the diocese in the cause causa.

Mon Ramón Pijoan, the parish priest gave the **welcome** to all those present and remembered the opening of the cause which also took place here.

The superiors general of the two congregations intervened later with **words of gratitude** to all who, in one way or another have taken part in the cause and have facilitated the arrival at this stagei.



M^a Mendía Ajona, of the Hijas de san José, in a moment of her intervention reflected on the period of the diocesan process:

"It had been a time of grace because it has taken us to know and deepen in the life, the vocation and the love of Fr. Butinyà for Jesus the Worker the Holy Family of Nazareth, and the men and women of work..

We are strengthened in the call today to sanctify ourselves at work living the mystique of the Shop of Nazareth..."



These were the final words of intervention by Lillian Ocenar, of the Siervas de San José:

"Thank you, Fr. Butinyà, for the Charism you have bequeathed to the Josephine family now extended over five continents as you desired.

Thank you for being a prophet for the world especially for the world of work. Thank you for your audacity and your faith. Thank you for your kindness and your fidelity".

Especially moving were the **testimonies** of those who shared what Fr. Butiñá had meant for their lives:

M^a Pilar Marquínez, fsj. gave an account of the history of her vocation to the congregación of the Hijas de San José, from the first moment from the hand of Fr. Butiñá. These are the first paragraphs of her communication:



*"The figure of the Servant of God, Francisco Butiñá Hospital is, for me a **lumino-
reference of holiness, and he was since the beginning of my vocation.***

*Throughout my life, I have been experiencing a growing affection for his person. I have been meeting with a **"holy" Jesuit who fell in love with the heart of God because he lived with heroic fidelity his double vocation of Jesuit and Founder.** A double vocation which Francisco went on weaving over an intricate and solid warp made of Faith and the Society.*

I found myself with a man with profound options which took him many times to follow paths and stances which were not easy, even against his likes but deeply coherent with the depths of his being with what he has already "seen", thus opening new ways in the society and in the Church.

But, what had impressed me more is the depth of his commitment: listen to the heartrending cries that come from the very depth of his being the desire to defend his option. Francisco for the poor, he gives all; his time, his science, his pleasure, his health... and he was ready to surrender even more"...

Eulalia Ramírez, ssj. stressed:



"Manual work captured his heart, work harmonized with prayer which was taking root in the heart of Francisco since he was very young. Years later, he communicated it to the Siervas de San Jose as a desire, a reality and as a fundamental aspect of our Charism..."

This manner of understanding work helps me discover in manual work a special place of communion and collaboration with Creator God who unites us with so many men and women who struggle to make a more humane world; and also to be able to sanctify myself in the "most humble tasks" like Jesus in Nazareth; and find myself encountering God in the most ordinary, to be contemplative in life, making my work prayer. To want to express with my life that God is my only treasure. It teaches me to contemplate the Holy Family in Nazareth in the simplicity of their ordinary life of work and relations"...

Father **Llorenç Puig, sj.**, delegate of the Fr. General in Cataluña, made those present active participants in the act of remembering the Servant of God as the Jesuits of Cataluña does today.



"He entered the sphere of holiness which gives fecundity to life... "turned his life making of him a person who inspires, capable of generating a reality apostolically precious with the first sisters... a structure giving attention to the most deprived persons of the working world, a world which in that period was terribly difficult and unjust and seem impossible to live with a spiritual dimension and dignity. Especially for women and girls..."

Making his "...this precious idea that holiness is not a case of a few chosen..."

*The message of Fr. Butiñá, "...it has something to do with the dignity of the persons who live on work, the cultivation of the spirituality which would nourish those lives and the **creation of a small utopia with the sisters**, made real, and would multiply in the varied continents of our world".*

A sharing of a kin of Fr. Butiñá, took place, **Martirià Butinyà i Carrera**, who expressed how the relatives have lived the presence of the Servant of God among them.

"...Separated from Banyoles, he continued connected to the family in a very natural way in his conduct, although in that period the affection to the family in religious life was considered a worldly obstacle. He did not see it that way.

The respect of Fr. Butinyà for his family, is strong and constant and is reflected in the correspondence he kept especially with his father Salvador and his sister-in-law Dolores and his nephew Martirià... In a constant family sharing he transmitted kindness, offers help, gives advice, orients.

His photographs are in our homes giving testimony of his life with his presence. From father to sons the custom of invoking his intercession in our prayers had been transmitted. The written testimony he left us has been read and loved by the family as a way of maintaining alive his presence and his plans"...



Mateu Butinyà
reading the communication
of his brother Martirià

At present, a community of Hijas de San Jose resides in Can Butiñá, the house where Fr. Butiñá was born. This presence of the Congregation in Bañolas began in 1994. **Patrocinio Eguillor, fsj** shared its significance, how they are living it:

"Fr. Butiñá was one of the persons who converts the normality of life into events.

From the Shop of Nazareth, he places us in the same mission as Jesus: carry the good news of the Gospel to the poor, making work into prayer and with commitment to the promotion and evangelization especially of the woman.

Fr. Butiñá is the great pointer towards Jesus Worker of Nazareth who focuses our lives. He tells us, and it is how we experience, that He is our good and is teacher for everything that is good.

All men, all women, can follow, by the ordinariness of their task, a new way of sanctification and encounter with themselves, with others and with God.

That the Church recognize his holiness is our desire, let us therefore, believe that his history and his life are great wealth for all".



At the end of the testimonies, there was a presentation by the Choir "Cor de Teatre", of Bañolas



The first moment of its intervention was done from the choir of the Church.

When the presentation was coming to its end, in the nave, in front of those present, they, once again interpreted other songs of their repertoire.

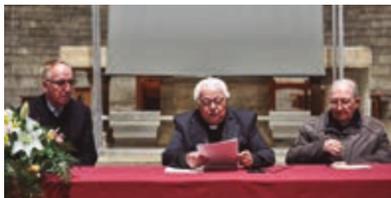


CLOSURE OF THE DIOCESAN PHASE OF THE CAUSE

After the first presentation of the choral group, the juridical acts followed by which the diocesan process is came to its conclusion. For the Cause.

Mn. Cosme Badia, notary clerk of the cause in this phase, enumerates each and goes introducing them:

1. Reading and signing of the decree of closure

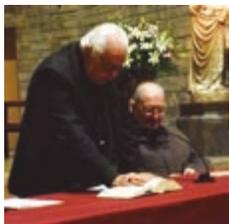


2 Oath taking of the Bearers

They take to Rome the Minutes/Documentations and deliver them to the dicastery for the Causes of Saints.



3. Oath taking of the members of the tribunal which has taken the process to its closure



4. Oath taking of the postulator



5. Reading and signing of the minutes of this closing session



6. Inclusion of the final act in the boxes with the Minutes / Documentation



7. Definitive closure and sealing of these boxes



The ceremonies in the afternoon ended at 6:15. March 19, 2019 was left as the historical date in the Diocese of Gerona as well as in the two Josephine congregations. Also, in that of the family.

The original Minutes were deposited in the archive of the Chancery on the 22nd of March.

The copies destined for the Congregation of the Causes of the Saints were leaving on the 26. On the 28 they were submitted, in the mentioned Congregation, by the Postulator of the cause in Rome, Fr. Pascual Cebollada, sj. and the Bearers.

From now on, it is our turn to accompany, with our confident and constant prayers, with our sincere interest, the whole roman process of the cause of the Servant of God. It will not surely be a short journey.

CLOSURE OF THE DIOCESAN PHASE OF THE CAUSE

Francisco Butinyà i Hospital: 1834-1899

From Banyoles to the world: sanctity at work



“...How great was my joy upon seeing the start of the foundation of the good Josephines destined to foment in their shops the virtues by means of piety and work, and how great is my desire that it be extended throughout the world”.

(La luz del menestral. Dedicatoria)

“Farmworker, builder, baker... whoever you may be...
Take courage then, christian worker, because you can be a saint, a great saint...
Love your profession with holy pride ...and accomplish it as expected of you by the Almighty for then you will arrive at a level of holiness greater than what you imagine”.

(La luz del menestral. Introduction)

PRAYER

Lord, good Father,
we thank you
because you revealed to Francisco Butinyà
the mystery of salvation enclosed
in the hidden life of Jesus in Nazareth
which propelled him to transmit
it with tireless courage,
above all to the workers,
to guide them to sanctity
“harmonizing prayer and work”.
May the testimony of his life
help us to follow Jesus, the Worker
and to live the Gospel of work.

In his hands we present
to you this need we have
(mention the grace asked for)

In order to receive more information, report testimonies, communicate thanksgiving or financial help for the Cause:



address to any house of the two congregations or to:

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