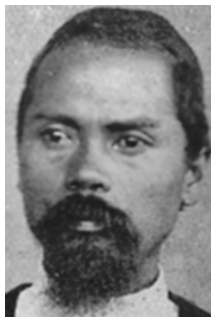


**CELEBRATING the BEATIFICATION of OUR BROTHER
LOUIS-RAFAEL RAFIRINGA, FSC**



1856 - 1919

Beatified: June 7, 2009

**You must, then, look upon your work as one of the most important
and most necessary services in the Church,
one which has been entrusted to you by pastors, by fathers and mothers.
De La Salle - Meditations**

On Trinity Sunday, June 7 2009, Brother Louis-Rafael Rafiringa will be beatified in a ceremony in Antananarivo, Madagascar. The beatification, proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI, will be presided over by Archbishop Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints. It is significant that the beatification will take place on Trinity because of its importance in the life of the Founder and it being the day of the renewal of vows and our commitment as Brothers.

A beatification is always a great gift to our Institute and especially to the Brothers and Lasallians of the District of Madagascar. Brother Rafael holds a special place in the history of the Church in Madagascar making this a significant event not only for our Institute but for the entire country. Brother Rafael was exceptionally talented and effective as an educator, a catechist and leader. During a time when foreign missionaries were expelled from the country, Brother Rafael was chosen as the President of the Catholic Union for all Madagascar, effectively running the Church during the period of great opposition. He suffered incarceration on false charges, yet held strongly to his faith and his vocation. Eventually, he was named a Member of the Academy of Madagascar and received the Medal of Civil Merit for the success of his efforts to normalize the relations between Madagascar and France.

Most importantly, we celebrate that Brother Rafael was a man of God. He was a convert to Christianity from his native religion, becoming a Brother who worked arduously teaching, working with the poor, writing books and composing poems and music. Blessed Louis-Rafael Rafiringa is a model not only for Madagascar but for the whole Institute and the Church.

Bro. Alvaro Rodriguez E.

**Brother Alvaro Rodriguez Echeverria FSC
Superior General**

PRESENCE of GOD

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, prostrate with the most profound respect before Your infinite and adorable majesty, I consecrate myself entirely to You to procure Your glory as far as I shall be able and as You will require of me.

PSALM 100

**Shout with joy to the Lord, O earth!
Worship the Lord with gladness.
Come before Him, singing with joy.
Acknowledge that the Lord is God!
He made us, and we are His.
We are His people, the sheep of His pasture.
Enter His gates with thanksgiving;
go into His courts with praise.
Give thanks to Him and bless His name.
For the Lord is good.
His unfailing love continues forever,
and His faithfulness continues
to each generation.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8:38-39

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

RESPONSE

Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Well done, good and trustworthy servant!
Since you have been trustworthy with a small amount,
I will put you in charge of a large amount.
Come and share your Master's joy!
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

John 15:1-5,

**I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.
He takes away every branch in Me that does not bear fruit,
and everyone that does He prunes so that it bears more fruit.
You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you.
Remain in Me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in Me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without Me you can do nothing.**

As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love.
If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love.
I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.
No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.
You are My friends if you do what I command you.

PSALM 61

My soul, find peace in God alone,
for He gives me strength to endure.
It is He Who is my God and my safeguard,
my stronghold: I shall never be shaken.
In God is my salvation and my glory,
God is my strength – my refuge is with Gd.
Trust in Him, all you people together,
pour out your hearts before Him;
God is our refuge.



PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

Response: Risen Lord Jesus, hear us.

For the gift of Brother Luis-Rafael, we pray in thanksgiving:
For all women and men who work for the glory of God and make the Kingdom of God present in our time, we pray:
For the gift of the De La Salle Brothers and their partners in ministry, we pray:
For the needs of the Church in our day and for good pastoral leaders, we pray:
For all of us that we take seriously the command of Jesus to preach the Gospel message in word and action, we pray:
For all those who suffer persecution because of their faith, we pray:
For all leaders of government that they will continue to work for peace, justice and harmony, we pray:
For all who have nurtured us in the faith, we pray:

O Lord, hear our humble prayers and answer them in Your own good way and in Your own good time. May we always accept Your Holy Will in our regard. Amen.

We thank you, God, for Scripture,
Those words, inspired, that tell
Of how You made the heavens,
Of how Your creatures fell,
Of how You called us often,
Of how You sent Your Son,
Who built His Church eternal
And calls us to be one.

We thank You for tradition,
To which Your Church is true,
The teachings and the customs
That constantly renew;
The saints who came before us
Have helped to show the way,
As we, their heirs, for others,
Will do the same someday.

We thank you, God, for reason,
That light of Yours within
That lets us fathom Scripture
And where Your Church has been,
For reason, by Your Spirit,
Will help to teach us how
To be Your faithful servants
In this, the here and now.

But, most of all, the Gospel
Is what we're thankful for,
The news of Your redemption
Of wealthy and of poor—
The Word made flesh dwelt with us
And taught us selfless love,
Then died to take us with Him
To dwell with You above.



Blessed Brother Luis-Rafael,
help us to be faithful to the Gospel
and lead lives of service for others.

Saint John Baptist de La Salle
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
inspire vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!