

MAKING THE SUN SHINE

BEATIFICATION PROCESS

Closing of the diocesan phase

FATHER TRIEST FOR TODAY

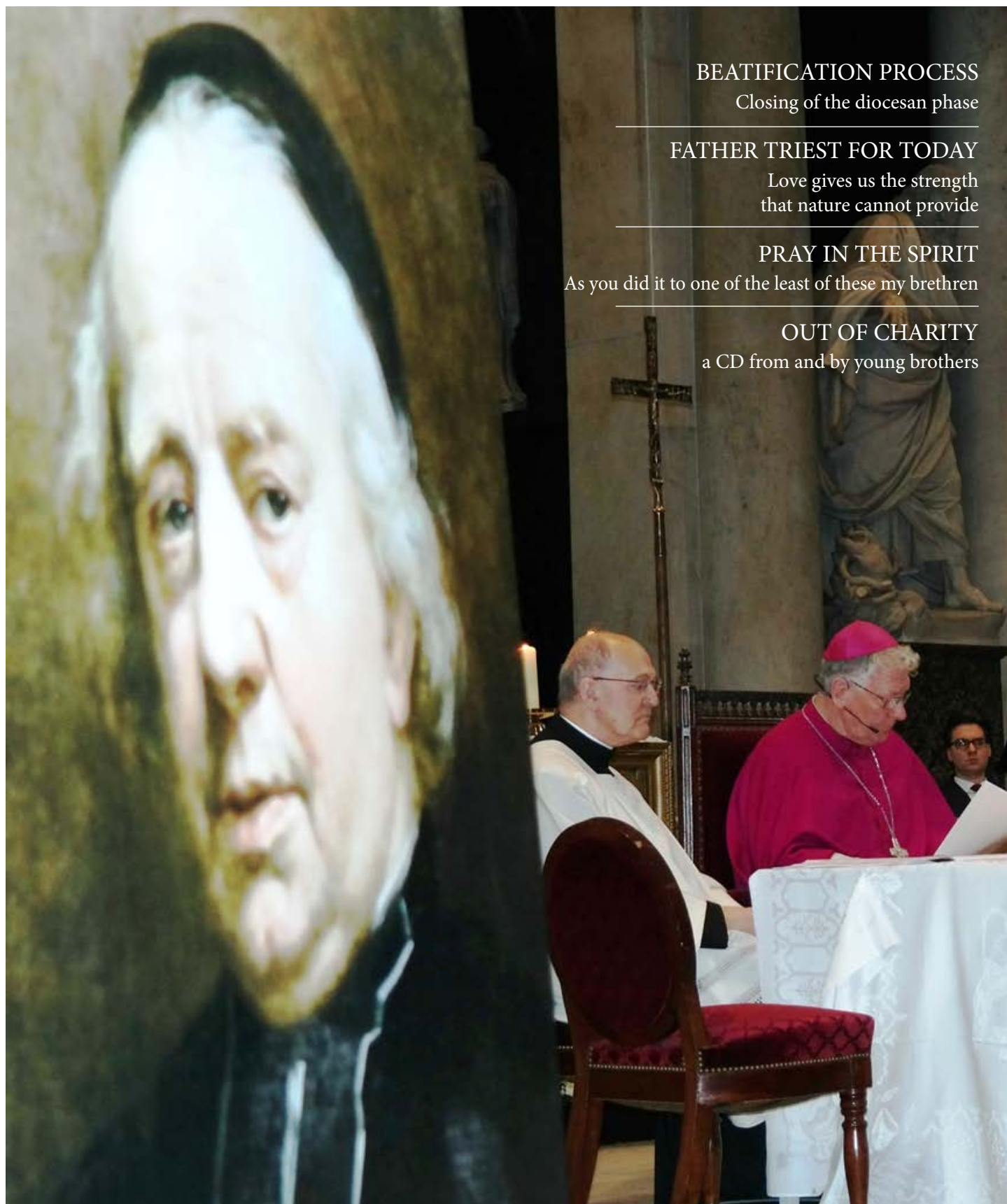
Love gives us the strength
that nature cannot provide

PRAY IN THE SPIRIT

As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren

OUT OF CHARITY

a CD from and by young brothers



PREFACE



DEAR FRIENDS,

On 3 May 2016, the three general superiors of the Triest Congregations came together to think about the further course of the Cause. Indeed, after the closing of the diocesan phase we have entered a new phase with the Cause. The superiors thanked all who contributed to the diocesan phase very much for the enormous amount of work they have done. Those who attended the closing ceremony at Saint Bavo's Cathedral in Ghent on Sunday, 15 November 2015 were impressed by the collection of no less than 22,000 pages of writing by and about Father Triest, interrogatories, and an extensive biography. With the approval of the bishop of Ghent, the diocesan phase was closed and everything could be transferred to the Vatican. There is more in this newsletter about what happens next.

'To continue the newsletter' was one of the decisions made during the meeting and so this is the first new issue, distributed digitally, with the opportunity to print it, too, and in three languages: Dutch, French, and English.

A website will be created to keep you constantly informed of the further evolution of the Cause.

Finally, we thought of how a visit to the places where Triest lived and worked could be better organized. It was also suggested to start prayer groups focusing on Father Triest in the different congregations and on different continents.

On behalf of the three congregations, the Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary, the Brothers of Charity, and the Sisters of the Childhood of Jesus, we call on you all to continue to pray for the beatification and to truly allow your life to be inspired by the words and by the example of the Servant of God Peter Joseph Triest, who we continue to familiarly call Father Triest.

Bro. René Stockman
Promotor of the Cause
of the Servant of God Peter Joseph Triest

CAUSE NEWS

CLOSING OF THE DIOCESAN PHASE OF THE BEATIFICATION PROCESS

Sunday, 15 November 2015 was the day: the diocesan phase of the beatification process of the Servant of God Peter Joseph Triest could be formally concluded at Saint Bavo's Cathedral in Ghent, the same place where the process was opened on 26 August 2001.

Fourteen years have passed in which so many people have helped put together a voluminous collection of documents, which will have to show that Father Triest lived the Christian virtues in an extraordinary manner. Do we even doubt that? Not at all after ploughing through the many documents from him and about him. And as we listened to the witnesses, we have become even more convinced: Father Triest will live on in the hearts of many and his charism still inspires so many people today.

At the opening, Bro. Eugeen Geysen, Brother of Charity, was officially appointed as the Postulator. We remain grateful to him for the pioneering work he has done. Unfortunately, he was unable to see the fruits of his work. It was Dr. Waldery Hilgeman who took the helm after Bro. Eugeen's passing, and continued the work with the help of many people. And those many have toiled: they searched for documents, scanned



IN THE END, WE HAD A TOTAL OF MORE THAN 22,000 PAGES COLLECTED

documents, translated documents, organized documents, and signed documents. In the end, we had a total of 22,000 pages, neatly collected in boxes, ready to be sealed and transported to Rome. The Promoter of Justice, Canon Jürgen Francois, accurately fulfilled his duty and could therefore present a positive final report to Mgr. Luc Van Looy, Bishop of Ghent, that said that everything had been done in accordance with the rules. In close consultation with the Postulator, Rev. Fr. Dirk Van Kerchove, who acted as Episcopal Delegate, made sure that everything ran within the specified timeframe, and with his characteristic patience, he heard the many testimonies, which are important for a historical process. The coordination work was done by the Notary, Mr. Lieven Claeys, and he made sure, with a constantly expanding team, that we reached the finish line. No, we cannot list the names of everyone who took part, but it is certain that in one way or another Father Triest made a profound impression of who he was and is on all of them. Our gratitude goes out to all of them!

The diocesan process was formally closed with a beautiful ceremony led by the bishop, and many attended this unique event. The next day, the sealed boxes were shipped to Rome, where on 19 November they were officially handed over to the Secretary of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, Archbishop Bartolucci. Bro. René Stockman, as the delegate of the three congregations, and Dr. Waldery Hilgeman, the Postulator, placed the boxes next to those of another Servant of God from Flanders, Father Constant Lievens, whose process of beatification was





also started in 2001 and ended in 2015. Father Triest was in good company. And with that, we turned a new page: the Roman phase of the beatification process.

What happens next?

The next step was the formal opening of the case at the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. This happened in February 2016. The diocesan process was formally declared valid and so they could start binding the sizeable set of documents. We are expecting a copy very soon, which will be kept at the General House of the Brothers of Charity in Rome.

Subsequently, a technical committee will be installed which will examine whether the case meets the established standards and was put together according to these standards. Given the expertise and experience of our Postulator, we are not expecting any problems. When this committee gives the green light, another committee will be installed which will focus on content. They will study whether the Servant of God Peter Joseph Triest lived the Christian virtues in a heroic manner. Meanwhile, the Postulator will have to write the 'postulatio', in which this heroism is established in line with what can be found in the documents. The biography and the testimonies are very important and in fact decisive in this.

When this committee submits a positive final report to the Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, he will in turn make a report to the Holy Father, who can then issue the decree that henceforth the Servant of God is to be called Venerable. This will

complete the process, and then we wait for a miracle so that the beatification may take place, and a second miracle for the canonization.

Many people ask us how long the process will take. A conclusive answer is of course quite difficult, but since we are almost certain that technically the case is in order, and we have already done a lot of work in preparation for the postulatio, we could assume that Father Triest will be named Venerable within a period of 5 years. But it can also take longer.

And meanwhile? We continue to pray for the beatification, so that even more people in the Church may be inspired by the life of our beloved Founder Father Triest.



THE DIOCESAN PROCESS
WAS FORMALLY CLOSED
WITH A BEAUTIFUL
CEREMONY



LOVE GIVES US THE STRENGTH THAT NATURE CANNOT PROVIDE

The word of Jesus Christ we read in Matthew was decisive for Father Triest: “As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me” (Mt 25:40). Here, Jesus identifies himself in the neighbour we serve. We need to see, meet, and love Jesus in the neighbour, in the sick person, in the poor person we serve. That is the key to our charity. That brings our charity to a divine level! Father Triest made it very concrete in his life, and he gave it as a message to his brothers and sisters. He understood that the work of service they performed was sometimes demanding, hard to bear. It made him express the essence of his charism in one sentence: “Love gives us the strength that nature cannot provide.” When we rely solely on our human capacities, we run the risk of being discouraged. Nowadays, we speak of burnout and stress, the dangerous diseases of modern society. There are so many reasons to be under great strain, to become discouraged, and to feel that inner tendency rise to pack it in. This is all very human. Triest gives us a remedy for burnout: allow ourselves to be shined upon by God’s love every day, so to be able to go to the neighbour with God’s love, strengthened by his grace and power. No, those are not words for the past; this is lasting advice.

“We will nurse the sick humbly and respectfully, seeing them as though they were suffering Jesus Himself. If certain diseases repel you, then you must rely on your strong faith, and see Jesus Himself in the person before you. With the eyes of faith we will serve the sick zealously and fervently. It is true that people have a natural aversion to the fulfilment of this task. But love should take nature’s place. Love should give us the strength to banish all those feelings of sadness and revulsion. Love gives us the strength that nature cannot provide.”

from ‘Summary of the virtues and qualities required for convent life’, 1833



These words gain even more authenticity because Father Triest lived it himself. It was no theoretical discourse with him. It was the driving force of his life, his work, his dedication to the sick and the poor. God’s love and charity were aligned with Triest, they stem from and fade into one another.

IN THIS SPIRIT WE PRAY

LORD JESUS,

so strong sounds the message
that you wanted to give us:
“In so far as you did this to one of the least
of these brothers and sisters of mine,
you did it to me.”

It is an overwhelming message,
a message that we can never penetrate enough.

Help us to see you, meet you,
and love you every day
in the neighbour you put on our path.

The neighbour who is sick,
the neighbour who is poor,
the neighbour who is on the run,
the neighbour who is in need.

But even the neighbour with whom I live and work,
the neighbour whose friendship I may share,
and the neighbour who is not that well-disposed
towards me.

They all carry your image within.
In their faces, we perceive your face.

Open my eyes to see you
in every neighbour,
and know you better through them.

Open my eyes to meet you
in every neighbour,
and make every meeting
an encounter with God.

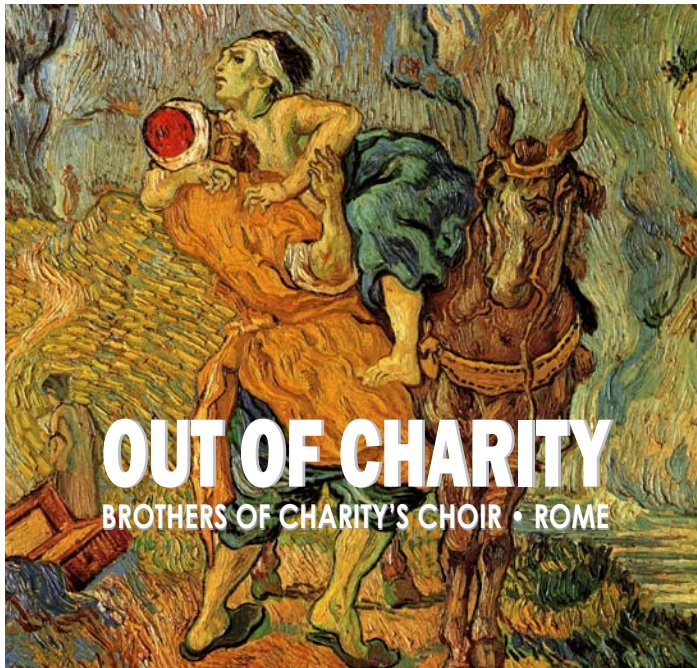
Open my eyes to love you
in every neighbour,
that my life would be prayer.

We thank you most of all
for giving us Father Triest
as a living image
of this divine charity.

Amen.



OFF THE BOOKSHELF



YOUNG BROTHERS RECORD CD

Father Triest plays the lead

“He who sings prays twice,” said Saint Augustine. Young Brothers of Charity who are living as students at the General House of the Congregation in Rome made a CD with songs they composed themselves. To listen to this CD is to pray and meditate on love, compassion, and mercy. Charity is the central theme. Lyrics and music specifically reflect on Father Triest’s charism and several songs refer to him. The CD has an inlay with all the lyrics and is available (€10 + shipping) through causatriest@fracarita.org

ANSWERS TO PRAYER

Anyone who has been granted a special healing or favour through the intercession of the Servant of God Peter Joseph Triest can report it in confidence to the Cause Secretarial Office: P.J. Triest Cause Secretarial Office, Stropstraat 119, 9000 Gent, Belgium, causatriest@fracarita.org

NEW SUBSCRIBERS TO THIS FREE NEWSLETTER

First time receiving this free digital newsletter? Or know anyone who might be interested? Help make the figure of P. J. Triest more widely known and be a source of inspiration for many others. Pass the email addresses of those interested on to: causatriest@fracarita.org

SUPPORT THE CAUSE

Support the Cause by your prayer, but also through a free contribution for this newsletter, a single or regular donations to account No. BE17 4400 7581 0121, made out to “Kloostergemeenschap Broeders van Liefde”, and write “Rek. 416.905 gift Causa Triest” in the message box. Thank you very much.

MAKING THE SUN SHINE

NEWSLETTER SERVANT OF GOD PETER JOSEPH TRIEST CAUSE

This newsletter is an initiative of the Postulatio P.J. Triest and the three Triest Congregations. The Cause Secretarial Office is responsible for layout and mailing.

Ed. Bro. René Stockman, f.c.

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