

Preparations for Fr. Stanislaus Papczyński's Beatification Program of Preparations

Introduction

The beatification of our Founder ought to become for all members of our Congregation a special time for renewal of their religious life, and specifically of the charism of the order that Fr. Papczyński founded. When the Church beatifies a person, she makes him/her a model of the Christian life for us. And this person becomes all the more a role model for all those who entered the same "way of life" that was initiated by the new Blessed, through founding this religious community. Naturally, the renewal ought to have both personal and communal aspects.

Thus, all our efforts in preparation for the beatification, as well as during the post-beatification year, ought to be directed towards the revival of our faith through the action of the Holy Spirit, as Fr. Papczyński experienced in his time. Furthermore, our priority is to get all the Marians interested in Fr. Papczyński's spirituality and in the charism of his Congregation, as seen by Fr. Papczyński. After all, it is the charism of every one of us. We shall also try to define what Fr. Founder's beatification means to us today, communally and individually. Because we are the Marians, thus we are Fr. Papczyński's spiritual sons. His beatification becomes a personal matter for each of us. In a broad sense, our actions ought to contribute above all to the renewal of our personal charisms and of our entire religious community. A renewed and more profound reflection on the charism that Fr. Papczyński lived out, and which he wanted the Congregation that he has founded to live by, would be greatly desirable for the entire Congregation.

Next we need to take actions directed at making Fr. Papczyński and his legacy more well known among other people, starting with those who are participating in our charism and mission: Associations of the lay faithful (AMH, EADM, and the Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception), as well as groups of the lay faithful embraced by our ministry (parishes, shrines, church groups). Properly prepared materials will allow for a wide-spread promotion and popularization of our Founder's personality and spirituality among members of the Catholic Church, because we all realize that he was a convincing witness of faith and the power of God's grace, which is greater than the sins of this world.

PRINCIPLES OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

The proposed program is the fruit of the work of the Committee in charge of preparing the Congregation of Marians for the beatification of the Servant of God, Fr. Stanislaus Papczyński, convoked by the Superior General's Decree of October 7, 2005, Prot. No. 207/05. This program received the General Government's approval during the General Council session on September 1, 2006.

The Committee prepares the draft of the preparations program for the impending beatification and post-beatification year; generates standard documents, which shall be adapted for each Province/Vicariate; and coordinates efforts of the provincial committees. All materials will be published and freely available on Web at: www.stanislawpapczynski.org Except for the initiatives, approved and recorded in this program, each Province/Vicariate shall make their own decisions regarding the usage of proposed materials.

The Superiors of the Congregation's administrative entities shall convoke appropriate Committees in their entities. Their goal would be to prepare a program of preparations for the beatification and the post-beatification year. They will translate documents into their national language; see to the completion of the actions determined by the All-Congregational program and by their own specific program in their Provinces.

Financing principle: the General Government shall absorb all costs incurred in Rome of the beatification process and post-beatification year events, as well as costs incurred through the preparation of documents for the entire Congregation. Provinces/Vicariates will pay the expenses related to preparing their own programs and their following implementation within their jurisdiction, and that includes publications in national languages.

Individuals who took upon themselves the completion of a project pertaining to the beatification, shall present their proposals for the Committee's approval. The Committee will present the project's final version for the General Government's approval.

WAYS OF PRESENTING FR. STANISLAUS PAPCZYŃSKI'S LIFE AND WORK

The Committee believes that for the sake of comprehensibility and clarity of communicated matters, it is necessary to radically emphasize the most characteristic features of his personality. Naturally, for pastoral purposes, these features may be deepened, developed, and illustrated by examples, etc. The main features of Fr. Founder's personality and activity will be presented in booklets, which may be used for sermons, conferences, or personal meditations. The Committee proposes the following topics:

Father Founder – a Zealous, Faithful Religious, Deeply Devoted to the Consecrated Life, prepared by Fr. T. Rogalewski;
Promoter of the New Life in Christ, prepared by Fr. D. Mażewski;
Venerator and Imitator of Mary Immaculate, prepared by Fr. K. Pek;
Advocate of the Faithful Departed, prepared by Fr. A. Skwierczyński;
Apostle of Sobriety, prepared by Fr. Z. Proczek;
Man of Great Social Awareness, prepared by Fr. J. Kosmowski;
Promoter of the Holiness of the Laity, prepared by Fr. R. Drabik.

The Committee believes that new publications, prepared by these guidelines, may appear in the future.

The booklet appearance:

Format A6;

Length of work – no more than 18,000 characters;

3. Each booklet shall contain:

A Calendar of Fr. Papczyński's life, prepared by Fr. W. Skóra;

A brief article popularizing the timeliness of Fr. Papczyński in today's world from the point of view of the topic featured by the booklet; no footnotes;

A selected document (i.e., Decree on heroic virtues, excerpts from Fr. Papczyński's writings pertaining to the featured topic, selected by Fr. A. Pakuła;

4. Each booklet will appear on-line and will be published in print by each Province for its own needs;
5. Deadline – end of September 2006;
6. We encourage all confreres to submit proposals of new topics.

III. ACTIONS WITHIN THE CONGREGATION:

Individual and communal preparations for the beatification

After the Cardinals and Bishops in the Ordinary Session of the Congregation for the Saints would make the positive decision, we shall start an intensive spiritual preparation for the beatification. All confreres shall receive a booklet containing:

Introductory Letter of the Superior General;

Decree convoking the Committee in charge of preparing the Congregation of Marians for the beatification of our Founder, the Venerable Servant of God, Fr. Stanislaus Papczyński;

Program for Days of Recollection;

Program of Preparations for the Beatification;

Fr. Founder's Biography

Calendar of the Life of the Marian Founder

Decree proclaiming the heroic virtues

Fr. Founder's Selected Writings about the Religious Life

Selected articles about Fr. Papczyński.

The plan for the days of recollection is prepared in such a way that every day one Marian community prays for a good preparation and experience of the impending (as we all hope) beatification of our Founder. We designated days of the month to every community in such a way so that there would be a continuance of prayerful vigil. The Committee is convinced that it will help the entire Congregation, as well as its individual members in their successful preparation for receiving and experiencing the grace of our Founder's beatification.

Post-beatification period

Acting on the conviction that the grace of beatification is an opportunity granted to our Congregation to renew the charism of our religious life and to ascertain the holiness of the road, which our Founder trod and which we, his spiritual sons, also follow, the Committee proposes to undertake the work of the spiritual renewal of the Marians and faithfulness to their charism, to which extent the following may be applied:

Annual retreats specifically oriented towards Fr. Papczyński's spirituality and renewing the Charism. The task of preparing such retreats will be assigned by the Provincial Superior.

Quinquennalia (conducted in view of the same goal and on the same basis as the Days of Recollection). In the post-beatification period, Major Superiors may organize Days of Recollection for a larger number of confreres, while giving a chance for confreres from other Provinces to also participate.

For the Days of Recollection in the post-beatification year, conferences in the spirit of Fr. Papczyński's spirituality shall be prepared in writing for the entire year. The duty of House Superiors would be to make sure that Days of Recollections are held regularly and accordingly to

the assigned topic and method, as required by our Constitutions. The conferences will be prepared by Fr. Michał Kozak.

Immediately after the beatification, the translation of all of Fr. Papczyński's writing in Polish shall appear in print. This translation is already being prepared. Other Provinces also started the work of translations, and some of Fr. Papczyński's writing are already published. Translations into Polish are supervised by Fr. A. Pakuła; into English – by Br. Andrew Mączyński; into Portuguese – by Fr. M. Jastrzębski. Other Provinces shall make their own decision regarding the translation work.

A book containing the selection of Fr. Papczyński's texts/thoughts for daily meditation is being prepared. Father J. Kumala undertook the task of making the selections and editing the meditations.

As an act of thanksgiving to God for our Founder's Beatification, each Religious House community and each Province (Vicariate) shall perform a work of mercy of a practical, not only a pious nature. This may take the form of a gift/actions *ad extra* (i.e., support for an orphanage, a school, etc.) or *ad intra* (support for our missions, formation, or a gift for the Marian Solidarity Fund). The decision in this case belongs respectively to the Superior General, Provincials, and House Superiors. The Committee strongly encourages the undertaking of such a work of mercy, which is usually performed by nearly each religious community on the beatification of their founders.

After the Beatification, authorized superiors will proclaim a ***Post-Beatification Year***, which will comprise celebrations in all of the Congregation (the entire Congregation, the entire Province/Vicariate; the Religious House; the House Community). Thus, the following shall be ordered:

Solemn Liturgical Celebrations including sermons about the newly Blessed; (*on the Congregation's level, the decision will be made by the General; on the Province's level, by the Provincial; on the parish's level, by its pastor*);

One session/symposium for the Marians on the meaning and immediate interest for today of the person of the newly Blessed Fr. Founder; (Fr. K. Pek agreed to take on this task: a symposium would be held at the CU in Lublin, probably sometime in 2007).

An invitation to our lay co-workers to the celebrations, particularly people associated with our Congregation through AMH, EADM, the Confraternity.

In accordance with the traditional approach, during the Post-Beatification Year, we should conduct in each house chapel and each Marian Church (also, in the parishes run by us) a solemn introduction of Fr. Papczyński's relic, accompanied by an appropriate sermon, procession, and invitation for the faithful to actively participate in the celebrations (processions with gifts, chants, prayers, etc.) It would be very good, if we can come up with a special liturgical ritual for the occasion. Our priests ought to make a proposal to the pastors of their hometown parishes to hold similar solemn celebrations there.

NOTE: In the matter concerning the form of the relic's cult, the prevailing Committee's opinion is to have the following reliquaries made:

The main reliquary at the Founder's tomb on Marianki;

one for the Mass of Beatification purposes (as customary);

one traveling reliquary for devotional purposes (as customary);

other reliquaries may be made upon special request from church communities; they shall fulfill the following requirements:

a written petition addressed to the General Postulator and containing a justifiable reason;

description (within the petition) of the place where the relic would be held and the explanation of reasonable expectations for establishing his devotion; justifiable need of the faithful; relics shall not be granted to private individuals.

10. The Committee members propose that instead of the traditional cult of the relics (their solemn introduction, location in a chapel/church, etc.) we hold a similar pious event combined with the solemn unveiling of the image of the new Blessed. At some other time (or maybe, even the same day) we may receive (for the duration of 24 or 48 hrs) the traveling reliquary, which would be combined with celebrations in honor of our Blessed. Some Committee members are of the opinion that the latest instructions of the Holy See regarding the cult of the relics go along the lines of the above-proposed new manner.

IV. PROMOTION OF FR. PAPCZYŃSKI'S PERSONALITY AND MESSAGE

The following actions include different ways of promoting Fr. Stanislaus' personality and spirituality, which the Committee deems appropriate and even necessary. Some of them can be continued at a later time, that is, after the official conclusion of the Post-Beatification Year. Each Province may create its own, special forms of promotion. The Committee proposes such actions and materials that can be of use for the entire Congregation.

1. A Webpage dedicated to Fr. Papczyński will be prepared. This page <http://www.stanislawpapczynski.org> will provide free access to all materials prepared by the Committee, including the ones described by this Program. Brother A. Mączyński will be in charge of preparing and supporting this site.
2. A short book/brochure containing the biography and reports of graces received through the intercession of Fr. Papczyński; to include the Novena through his intercession for the canonization. Person in charge: Fr. W. Skóra, the General Promoter.
3. Ten catechetical talks about the new Blessed will be prepared with one that would speak exclusively about his personality. These materials, as catechetical source books, may be sent to Diocesan Curias. The need for such materials has been already voiced by the Diocese of Tarnów. Persons in charge: Frs. Rafał Zalewski and Krzysztof Trojan.
4. Ten sermons about the new Blessed will be prepared with one that would speak exclusively about his personality to benefit the lay faithful. Person in charge: Fr. T. Rogalewski. It appears that the Podegrodzie Pastor, Fr. Józef Walaszek, expressed his will to prepare the sermons.
5. A documentary about Fr. Papczyński (approximately 30 minutes long) is in progress. This is not a feature movie, thus the Congregation can have the copyrights, and soundtrack may be prepared in different languages to fit the needs of all the Marians. Persons in charge: Frs. A. Pakuła and P. Napierkowski.
6. In time for the Beatification, articles will be prepared for Catholic newspapers (and possibly others, as well), speaking of Fr. Papczyński's personality and life, his work and spirituality. Because of a tremendous differentiation between Provinces/Vicariates, this task lays within each Province/Vicariate's authority. There are Catholic programs on public radio and television in many countries or private Catholic stations. We may approach them with a proposed participation in reflecting the Beatification or in presenting the person of the new Blessed, thus creating a special event in the media (like the TV program "Between heaven and earth" in Poland or other Catholic programs on TV and radio.) Also, right before the Beatification, a press conference can be called

- where we could talk about Fr. Papczynski from the point of view of history, spirituality, significance of his person for today's world, etc. Before the conference we should prepare materials for the journalists about Fr. Papczynski. Provincial Committees would do well, planning this ahead of time and to either appoint appropriate confreres to appear on television or to speak on the radio, or to contact some of our journalists-friends and ask them to undertake this task.
7. There is a tradition in some countries to have in May, special devotions to Our Blessed Mother, which include May Readings. Usually, texts are read that have been either prepared or approved by the Diocesan Curias. The Committee proposes to prepare appropriate texts for the month of May. Person in charge: Fr. J. Kumala.
 8. There usually is an exhibition/showcase in each of our churches. The Committee proposes to use them to display information about Fr. Papczyński – pictures, biography, the Marian Order's history, short commentaries, etc. The Committee will prepare the mockup of posters.
 9. Prayer cards/novenas/information leaflets will be published in time for the beatification:
 - a) information leaflet about Fr. Papczyński with a prayer;
 - b) small prayer cards with a prayer for a special grace, prepared by Br. A. Mączyński;
 - c) medium and large size images to hang on walls, prepared by Fr. W. Skóra.
 10. A Beatification medal will be minted for the occasion. Br. A. Mączyński is in charge of this project.
 11. The complete Beatification documentation (i.e., letters, homilies, speeches, Mass texts and others, posters, films, etc), in other words, everything that regards the Beatification and Post-Beatification events shall be collected and arranged into a book. The project is coordinated by Fr. D. Mażewski.
 12. Our Religious Houses in charge of parishes ought to make a proposal during deaneries' meetings that appropriate sermons about Fr. Papczyński be delivered in the respective deaneries on the occasion of his Beatification. Materials, mentioned by this Program, can be used for this purpose.
 13. For the greater glory of God, as well as for the good of the canonization, we shall try to describe and make public the circumstances of the miracle after the proclamation of the Beatification decree. Naturally, we should obtain beforehand the agreement of all interested parties (mother of the child, doctor, etc.) Persons in charge: Frs. W. Skóra, D. Mażewski, and A. Pakuła. Preliminary consultations with the interested parties have been already conducted.
 14. After the Beatification we shall establish a contact with pro-life movements and, upon presenting this incident to them, we shall propose them to hold a Day of Thanksgiving for saving the life of an unborn child through the intercession of Fr. Papczyński.
 15. We should try to get the National Conference of Bishops in Poland interested in the matter and to prepare a draft of a pastoral letter (or a communiqué) of the National Conference of Bishops on the occasion of the Beatification of the Founder of the first Polish Order and an imminent personality in the history of the Catholic Church in Poland.

III. TASKS AT HAND

As we all hope, a positive opinion in the Founder's cause is near at hand. Thus, there are tasks that require our immediate attention:

1. Drafts of liturgical texts for the liturgical remembrance/feast of the new Blessed (with indication of a desirable date) must be prepared for the Congregation of the Divine Cult. We also need:
 - a) To draft the main prayer; person in charge – Fr. M. Zachara;
 - b) To select appropriate liturgical texts for the celebration of the liturgical remembrance/feast: First Reading, Psalm, Gospel and Prayers of the Faithful; person in charge – Fr. M. Zachara;
 - c) To select appropriate excerpts from Fr. Papczynski's writings to be used during the Office of Readings in the Liturgy of the Hours, as an addition for our use only; person in charge – Fr. M. Zachara with Fr. A. Pakuła's assistance;
 - d) To select a date for the remembrance of the Blessed. Customary, it is the day of his death. However, in Poland the day of September 17th is already assigned for Bl. Szeszyczny Feliński's memorial; the previous day – September 16th is also an obligatory remembrance; the following day – September 18th is a liturgical feast. Another possibility is May 18th – Fr. Papczyński's birthday, which is being celebrated throughout the Congregation. The Committee proposes the day of May 18th. The final decision will be made by the General Government following appropriate consultations, which will include those with the Congregation for the Saints;
 - e) To send a petition to the Congregation, asking to include Fr. Papczynski's memorial in the liturgical calendar of our Congregation; we could also approach the Bishop of Tarnów with a proposal of introducing this memorial as obligatory for his Diocese and to the Primate of Poland – for the Archdiocese of Warsaw;

2. Exhumation –in accordance with a suggestion made by competent parties, efforts to obtain permission for an exhumation will be made after the positive opinion of the Ordinary Session of the Cardinals and Bishops of the Congregation for the Saints is given. The relics will be divided into parts specifically assigned already during this exhumation (upon the power of the Ordinary): i.e., for a reliquary for the Beatification Mass, for the place of burial, for each of our Provinces and chapels; for the Dioceses of Ełk, Tarnów, etc. It is necessary to have a larger number of relics bearing in mind future needs. NOTE: Since 300 years passed from the death of Fr. Papczyński, during which time his coffin sustained different vicissitudes (including its extraction from marshy grounds), we do not know if it still contains usable remnants, and if it does, could they be possibly used for the above-mentioned reliquaries? We shall know the answer as soon as we open the coffin, and we shall inform all the confreres about it. This task lies within the competencies of the General Postulator, Fr. W. Skóra.

During the Beatification, a reliquary with relics of the Blessed is traditionally carried in a procession; thus, it needs to be ready beforehand. We need:

- a) a reliquary for the Beatification Mass, person in charge – Postulator General;
- b) a reliquary for Marianki. Nearly all members of the General Committee believe that we shall have this reliquary placed in the niche of the existing sarcophagus; having this niche illuminated, etc. this reliquary will replace the former one. The Committee do not think advisable

to move the reliquary either on top of the sarcophagus or on/at the foot of the altar. The Committee propose to prepare one/several projects of the reliquary placement inside the sarcophagus. The General Government in close consultation with the Divine Providence Province, which has the honor of being the custodian of our Founder's relic, will make the decision.

- c) medium-size reliquaries for our churches/chapels, person in charge – Postulator General;
- d) small-size reliquaries for private devotion (i.e., medals), in accordance with the practice of the Catholic Church, person in charge – Postulator General.

3. We will commission a Beatification painting. Since there is no authentic and well-painted likeness of Fr. Papczyński, but several more or less successful portraits, it seems that the best solution would be to commission several paintings. Presently, the General Government placed a commission to paint a picture based on the portrait from Grudziądz, with regard to other existing portraits and including in it, some new special elements for the purposes of the beatification ceremony. The painting is shown on the cover of this book. Also, Br. A. Mączyński, the General Promoter of the AMH, is overseeing the completion of another painting, which, if satisfactory, may be selected as the Beatification picture, in case the first one isn't up to our expectations. The Committee approves this painting as the alternate choice. NOTE: It seems necessary, however, to distinguish between a picture for devotional purposes and the one for the Beatification event, which ought to reflect the personality of the new Blessed. It would be best if the painting made for the beatification fulfills both requirements. This comment is important to the extent that the painting of the new picture shall not impede in anyway the promotion of other portraits of Fr. Papczyński through prayer and novena cards, etc. Fr. A. Pakuła coordinates the project.

4. There is still the matter of Offering Gifts:

- a) a gift for the Holy Father (of a liturgical character) as our token of gratitude for the Beatification, to be offered during the Holy Mass (i.e., a set of chasubles with the image of Our Lady, a set of altar linens, chalices, liturgical cross, etc.)
- b) an image of the new Blessed, to be offered to the Holy See after the Beatification, person in charge: Postulator General.

Fr. Andrzej Pakuła, MIC
Rome, August 29, 2006