

SG 40-2022
Rome, 09 August 2022

First death anniversary of Fr. Olivier Maire

Dear brothers and sisters,

One year ago today: with deep sorrow we received the news of the murder of Father Olivier Maire. We could not understand, we could not believe that the news was true. The news has circulated the world. We have gathered around the parents, from Father Olivier's family; we have come together as a Montfortian family to comfort each other and to celebrate the resurrection of our brother with the title of "martyr of charity". Let us always remember, carrying in our hearts the hope and joy that comes from the certainty that our brother Olivier Maire participates in the glory of the Kingdom. Let us also keep these words of Pope Benedict XVI in the public audience of 2010:

"Once again, where does the strength to face martyrdom come from? From deep and intimate union with Christ, because martyrdom and the vocation to martyrdom are not the result of human effort but the response to a project and call of God, they are a gift of his grace that enables a person, out of love, to give his life for Christ and for the Church, hence for the world. If we read the lives of the Martyrs we are amazed at their calmness and courage in confronting suffering and death: God's power is fully expressed in weakness, in the poverty of those who entrust themselves to him and place their hope in him alone (cf. 2 Cor 12: 9). Yet it is important to stress that God's grace does not suppress or suffocate the freedom of those who face martyrdom; on the contrary it enriches and exalts them: the Martyr is an exceedingly free person, free as regards power, as regards the world; a free person who in a single, definitive act gives God his whole life, and in a supreme act of faith, hope and charity, abandons himself into the hands of his Creator and Redeemer; he gives up his life in order to be associated totally with the Sacrifice of Christ on the Cross. In a word, martyrdom is a great act of love in response to God's immense love." (Pope Benedict XVI, audience August 11, 2010 - Castel Gandolfo)

Community of the General House of Montfort Missionaries



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