



Cavanis Lay Fraternity
Sacred Heart House, CAVANIS INSTITUTE
Via Col Draga - POSSAGNO (TV)
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WHY SAINTS?

Why should the holiness of life of the Servants of God Fr. Anthony Cavanis, Fr. Mark Cavanis and Fr. Basilio Martinelli be officially recognized by the Church, so that they may be imitated in their virtues and invoked as intercessors for the people of God, especially for the youth and families?

“For their great love for the Lord, whom they loved with all their heart, with all their soul, with all their strength and for their whole life, above all things and above all people”.

“For their love of neighbor, especially for the most vulnerable, for the “many poor and scattered children.” Their love of neighbor became an educational mission - a commitment expressed through seeking out and drawing close to others, through hard work and humble, unconditional dedication”.

“For the tenacity and courage with which the Servants of God waged their battles in favor of the education of young people, proving themselves to be true pioneers, if not indeed heroes, of the freedom of Christian education in the early decades of the nineteenth century”.

“For many other reasons that can be discovered by coming to know their life and the educational work they founded”.

(from the website www.santitacavanis.org)

POPE FRANCIS - Angelus on November 3, 2024

The Love for God and the love for neighbor: “this is the heart of our faith!”.

Here “Jesus gives us the answer”, joining together the two commandments that are the greatest: “You shall love the Lord your God” and “you shall love your neighbor”.

As we know, we all need to return to the heart of life and faith, because the heart is “the radical source of their strengths, convictions”. And Jesus tells us that the source of everything is love, that we must never separate God from man. The Lord says to the disciples of all ages: in your journey, what matters is not exterior practices, such as burnt offerings and sacrifices, but the readiness of heart with which you open yourself to God and to brethren in love. We can in fact do many things, but doing them only for ourselves and without love, is no good; doing things with a distracted heart or even with a closed heart, is no good.

All things must be done with love. The Lord will come, and he will ask us first and foremost about love: “How did you love?” Let us ask for the powerful intercession of our dear Mother Mary, that she may “help us to love the Lord and our brothers and sisters”.

From the Gospel according to Saint Mark (12, 28-34)

²⁸ One of the scribes who had heard them debating, and, seeing how well Jesus had answered, asked him, “Which is the first of all the commandments?” ²⁹ Jesus answered, “The first is: *Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one Lord;* ³⁰ *you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind and with all your strength.* ³¹ And the second is this: *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* There is no other commandment greater than these”. ³² Then the scribe said to him, “Well said, Teacher; you have truly said that He is *one, and there is no other besides him;* ³³ *to love him with all your heart, with all your mind and with all your strength and to love your neighbor as yourself* is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices”. ³⁴ Jesus, seeing that he had answered wisely, said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And no one dared to question him any further.

To the love of our dear Mother Mary, the Venerable Brothers Father Anthony and Father Mark Cavanis attributed the graces and help they received, including help with the material needs for the life of the youth group (Marian Congregation), the schools, and the new Congregation of the Schools of Charity (so called from 1819–1820 onward). These included, for example, the purchase of the building for the schools and for the Spiritual Exercises,

the payment of debts, and the successful outcome of difficult bureaucratic procedures. They carefully recorded all these events in the Congregation Diary. We should therefore say that the term “**patronage**” expressed two great dimensions of their faith and devotion to Mary:

a) the certainty that Mary, to whose motherly heart the dying Jesus had entrusted humanity, was present, watching over them and protecting their life, their work, and the youth entrusted to them with her prayer;

b) total trust in Mary, who became the ideal example of acceptance of God’s Will, of listening to the Word, of purity and chastity, of selfless love: so, they entrusted themselves to her in order to walk, with her help, the journey of life.

(from the website: www.cavanis.org)

Prayer traditionally attributed to the Venerable Fr. Mark Cavanis

Beloved mother Mary, turn your eyes of mercy toward us sinners and move to compassion for our worries and difficulties, pray your son Jesus to help us with his grace so that we may generously cooperate for our own and other people's sanctification.

Beloved mother Mary, do not look at our unworthiness, but rather on your most gentle maternal love, and implore for us the great grace to see our devout Congregation grow up with renewed strength, to the greater glory of God and the salvation of many helpless young people.

Beloved mother Mary, you are so terrible against evil repress with your power the dreadful slaughter the devil is doing of poor children lacking in education and support by your protection the efforts we made to gather them, watch over them and lead them to our heavenly home. Amen.

