

# ★ *lasalliana*

16 - 5 – B - 81

## THE MIRACLE ATTRIBUTED TO BROTHER SCUBILION APPROVED FOR HIS BEATIFICATION

Instantaneous and complete cure of Marie Therese Hoareau of a «serious infection of the wall of the abdomen following a hysterectomy operation due to fibrosis of the uterus, with a clinical gangrenous development, complicated by evisceration, heavy haemorrhaging and hypovolemic shock».

\*\*\*

Marie Therese Losandiere was born on the Island of Reunion on June 10th 1928. She married Claude Hoareau and had seven children. Her medical records show no history of hereditary disease, if one discounts the premature deaths of some brothers and sisters at an early age. Her parents died at an advanced age (her mother was 87 and her father 98).

In 1965, Madame Hoareau had a gynaecological operation, and the operation wound healed perfectly. In 1967, she went for another operation for a slipped disk in her lower back. She was badly overweight and suffered a little from blood pressure: she had been suffering recently from various ailments: loss of appetite, constipation, pains in her right iliac fossa, metrorrhagia and leucorrhoea.

When she went for an X-ray and a gynaecological check-up, it was discovered she had an enormous uterine fibroma which had to be operated upon. She went into hospital on October 20th 1975 at the Clinique de la Pointe, and was operated upon by the chief surgeon, Marc Zourgane. A complete hysterectomy posed no problems and the post-operative stage was normal.

However, on the sixth day, October 26th, her temperature rose to 40° as a result of infection which grew worse in the days that followed. Doctor Zourgane discovered the cause to be gangrene. He began treating it with sulphamides, antibiotics and cortisone. He operated on her again to drain and clean the infected area. In spite of all this and blood transfusions, her condition did not improve.

On the contrary, on November 1st, at one o'clock in the afternoon, there was a heavy external haemorrhage, followed by a massive cardio-vascular collapse, which destroyed any hopes of recovery. Doctor Zourgane informed her husband. Transfused blood was ejected through the tubes serving to drain off purulent discharges from the abdominal cavity.

\*\*\*

Another patient in the clinic, a certain Madame M. J. Buichard, seeing the terrible state of Madame Hoareau, went up to her on October 30th and suggested she invoke the help of the Servant of God, Brother Scubilion, and she left her a holy picture of him with a relic.

It was on the evening of November 1st, when the state of the patient was beyond hope of recovery, that her husband who was beside her, took the picture of Brother Scubilion into his hands and filled with confidence asked him to cure his wife.

After a short while, an obvious and spectacular change took place in the patient and her condition improved. After two or three hours, her condition had returned to normal and the danger of death had disappeared.

The doctors could not believe what they saw. They decided to keep Madame Hoareau in hospital for examination for a month, and on December 2nd 1975, they allowed her to go home completely recovered. As far as the doctors are concerned, what happened on November 1st could not be explained and still cannot be in the light of our present knowledge of science.

\*\*\*

This miracle was approved on June 1st 1987 and was used for the beatification of Brother Scubilion.

*(Information taken from the Cause of Beatification documents kept in the archives of the Postulator General).*

**Br. J.M.V.**

## MIRACLE ATTRIBUTED TO BLESSED BROTHER MUTIEN MARIE APPROVED FOR HIS CANONISATION

This miracle which was accepted by the Church for the canonisation of Blessed Brother Mutien Marie took place on February 22nd 1977 in Malonne, Belgium. The person cured was Brother Madir.

Brother Madir, whose secular name was Franz Verstraelen, was born in 1900. As early as 1929, he had a cholecystitis which had been treated by cholecystectomy. In 1930, he had to go back to hospital for a local operation for costal osteitis, the result of a previous operation.

However, the first symptoms of the illness which was cured miraculously go back to 1969, when he suffered a fracture of his spine which was thought to be simply lumbago. Subsequently, X-rays at the time showed that the second lumbar vertebra was also affected.

His pathological state grew worse. X-rays taken on December 21st 1970 showed fractures also in the 12th dorsal vertebra and the 3rd lumbar vertebra. The condition grew worse and Brother Madir had such pain in his back that he had to be put into plaster and lie still.

On January 4th 1971, a fracture was discovered in the 9th dorsal vertebra, and on June 1st of the same year, on the 10th and 11th dorsal vertebrae. Neither medicines nor physiotherapy proved to be of any help.

When he was in Anvers in 1976, he suffered another fracture, this time in the neck of the right femur.

A medical examination on January 13th 1977 confirmed the existence of extensive and generalised senile dorso-lumbar osteoporosis. The patient was in great pain and could walk only with the help of two sticks or crutches.

\* \* \*

On November 13th 1976, the decree was published approving the miracle of Brother Mutien Marie for his beatification. The next step was to officially identify his remains, and this ceremony was due to take place on February 22nd 1977.

Brother Madir, who had been infirmarian at Malonne, asked to be allowed to help with the ceremony. Both the doctors and the superiors agreed to his request, knowing full well that he could not give much help with the ceremony, since if he let go of his stick he would fall down. Brother Madir, however, was confident that Brother Mutien could cure him.

At one point during the process of identification of the remains of the Servant of God, Brother Madir began to help the doctors and the other people present. To do this he needed to use both hands and so had to let go of the stick he needed to support himself. By the end of the ceremony he no longer needed either sticks or crutches. And this continued to be the case as long as he lived. He died on May 7th 1986 of a pulmonary oedema.

There still exist numerous photos of the ceremony. In the first few one can see Brother Madir leaning on his stick as usual and forced to do so by his illness. In the others he can be seen without any support at all.

\* \* \*

Henri Podor, one of those present at the ceremony, gives the following testimony: «... on February 22nd 1977, as the one in charge of the staff at the Institute, I was called to take part in the opening of the grave and coffin, having first sworn an oath in the presence of a number of dignitaries. Just then, Brother Madir comes into the parlour, leaning as usual on his crutch. We open the coffin: at that point the doctors come forward, as does Brother Madir who puts the crutch aside in order to help. When all was finished you can imagine my surprise on seeing Brother Madir walking now without any support. He said to me: "I think Brother Mutien Marie has granted me a great favour"».

Numerous other persons who were present at the ceremony or who had lived with the Brother before and after the cure gave similar testimonies.

In the official process of the Cause, the miracle is described as follows: «Instantaneous and complete clinical cure, with the disappearance of painful symptoms and the recovery of the ability to walk normal for his age, from a serious form of senile osteoporosis, accompanied by multiple and repeated fractures, a serious pain syndrome and serious functional locomotor disability.»

*(Extract from the official Process. Archives of the Postulator for the Cause).*

**Br. J.M.V.**