

NOVENA TO THE VENERABLE BROTHER GABRIEL TABORIN - MARCH 2024

During this month's novena we will be especially present to the people who are considering their vocation in our Sa-Fa Family. The experiences and words of Brother Gabriel will accompany us during these days. The first refer to the process of discerning one's own vocation; Below are some quotes that show how the "Founder" of a religious congregation is above all a vocational "promoter"; and finally some guidelines on vocational animation.

Prayer for each day

God our Father,
who has raised up in the Church
the Venerable Brother Gabriel Taborin
to promote Christian education, catechesis
and liturgical animation,
grant that, sharing his charism,
we may know how to carry out our mission today
for the good of the family and of society
with the strength of your Spirit.
And if it is your will,
grant that he may be numbered among the saints,
granting us through his intercession the grace we need...
(mention the names of the persons for whom you wish to pray)
We ask you this with insistence through Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen



Day 16

"During his stay at this boarding school, an important thought took hold of him with such force that it became obsessed with him. Incessantly, it assaulted his mind during studies and classes, in the hustle and bustle of recess; He did not abandon him day or night. We use his own words: 'It was the idea of adopting a way of life that united the exercises of religious life with the education of young people, the care and decoration of the altars and the other secondary functions of worship'." (Brother Frederic, Life, Chapter V).

Day 17

"My vocation to religious life was decided at a time when faith was much more alive than today. It occurred during the famous and memorable mission that took place in Saint-Claude in 1821, and in which I had the good fortune to participate. I wish it had lasted a lifetime. (...) At first my parents were tenaciously opposed to my becoming religious. They wanted to have me with them and still hoped that I would resume my studies with a view to the priesthood. But, when they were sure that God destined me for religious life, they provided me with the means to embrace it: for this I have remained eternally grateful to them" (Brother Gabriel, Autobiography).

Day 18

"My trials have been great, but I can assure you, Monsignor, with all sincerity that I have never experienced greater inner joy than in those moments. They never bothered me because my hope was in God. I had complete confidence that he would know how to carry out his work if it was indeed his. (...) And I have to confess that in the midst of these reflections the voice of the vocation was felt within me and I felt more driven than ever to work and offer my fatigue and vigils in reparation for the sins that I might have committed throughout my life and for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. He was willing to endure with the greatest resignation any type of setback, trial or humiliation in order to fulfil what the Lord seemed to ask of the smallest and most unworthy of his servants" (Letter from Brother Gabriel to Bishop Devie. Belmont, October 12, 1836).

Day 19

"He had a particular esteem for the Brothers and pious novices. He often ordered them to go and pray before the tabernacle to ask for vocations according to God's heart: experience showed that this measure produced good results. He frequently affirmed that the founding of the Congregation had been the fruit of prayer" (Brother Frederic, Life, VIII notebook).

Day 20

"I was at the end of a table and my work was the last one he saw. After having told him about my condition, profession and age, since he had asked me, he told me, while giving me a tap on the shoulder: 'In fifteen days, you will be one of us...' Indeed, fifteen days later he was marching to Belmont" (Brother Frederic, Life, Chapter XXVIII).

Day 21

"One day while he was eating in a restaurant in Lyon, the Brother Founder noticed that the waiter who served him had a thoughtful air and that he even moaned at times. He addressed him with these words: 'Friend, you seem to be sad, is something wrong with you?' -'But how do you not want me to be sad,' replied that young man, 'to see how others conquer heaven, while I am going to be damned?' After this first confession, he told him more things. Brother Gabriel told him to become religious. The proposal was accepted with great pleasure and all the details were finalized for the young man to enter Belmont on a specific date" (Brother Frederic, Life, Chap. XXI).

Day 22

"The case of Brother John Charrière is also known, who arrived at Belmont by deception and ended up being one of the first Brothers who persevered in his vocation. 'I had not come to Belmont with the intention of making profession; but he achieved much more: he convinced me to give up the idea of returning to the Rev. Picolet and I would stay definitively in the community to which the Lord had taken me. Recognizing the hand of God in that small event, I convinced myself that I would do nothing better than to remain with Brother Gabriel. In this sense and, following the directives of the latter, I replied to the priest who had sent me'. From that moment on, Brother John did not doubt his vocation" (Brother Frederic, Life, Chap. XVI).

Day 23

"It is easy to understand that a young person who makes some sacrifice to enter religious life offers more guarantees of perseverance; Likewise, that parents have to sacrifice themselves to enable their children to follow their vocation means that they find in them some signs that God is calling them" (Brother Frederic, Life, Chapter XXVI).

Day 24

"We have new requests for Brothers for the churches; They also come to us for schools and for other good works, to which our Institute could help if it had enough candidates. It is necessary, therefore, dear Brothers, that you show yourselves zeal to obtain, with discernment, pious and intelligent postulants for our Congregation. The number does not matter as much as the quality of the candidates" (Brother Gabriel, Circular 21).

Animation of the Cause of Beatification. March 2024