

**April 28, 2009 - Slovenia - First steps in the process of the beatification of Fr. Andrej Majcen**



**(ANS - Ljubljana)** - The Salesians in the province of Slovenia are taking the first steps to launch the process for the beatification of the Servant of God Fr. Andrej Majcen, SDB, born at Maribor, Slovenia, in 1904. He died at Ljubljana, Slovenia, in 1999. A heroic missionary, Fr. Majcen is considered the “Salesian patriarch” in Vietnam, where he arrived in 1952 after being expelled from China, and remained until the Communist regime took over in 1976.

On November 5, 2008, the prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, Archbishop Angelo Amato, SDB, granted the required “nihil obstat” for the introduction of a new cause. For this reason on April 25 the postulator general of the Salesian Family, Fr. Enrico dal Covolo, went to see the archbishop of Ljubljana, Alojzi Uran, accompanied by the provincial Fr. Alojzi Slavko Snoj, and the vice postulator, Fr. Tone Ciglar.

In the course of the meeting a number of technical issues were discussed regarding the launching of the process of beatification and canonization. A provisional date for the solemn session for the opening of the canonical process, which will probably take place at Rakovnik (Ljubljana), in the historical sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians, was fixed for the last Sunday in September. In fact, on September 30 it will be ten years since the Servant of God went to heaven.

The following day, April, 26 the postulator paid his respects at the grave of the Servant of God in the Ljubljana cemetery.

On a number of occasions over the course of the two days, Fr. dal Covolo was able to speak about “Holiness in the Salesian Family,” especially to the leaders of youth groups from the province and to the Association of Mary Help of Christians (ADMA).

The beginning of May is an occasion very close to the heart of the Salesian Family and of the whole archdiocese of Ljubljana, which has the sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians at Rakovnik as a focal point.