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*The venerable servant of God **James Alfred Miller** receives the dignity of  
Beatorum.*

*François P.*

*For perpetual remembrance of the matter.*

*"I put my hope in God; I will not be afraid: what can man do to me?" (Ps 56[55],  
12).*

*The Venerable Servant of God **James Alfred Miller**, a member of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, known in Latin America as "Hermano Santiago," gave his life in service to the people and Church of Guatemala, which was ravaged by civil war for 30 years.*

*He was born on September 21, 1944, in the town of Ellis near Stevens Point, Wisconsin, in the United States of America, the first of five children. His family lived in the countryside, and he grew up surrounded by traditional religious values connected to the land and nature. After completing his studies, he began attending Pacelli High School in Stevens Point, run by members of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. There, he realized that he was called to religious life and asked to be accepted into their institute. He took his temporary vows on August 1, 1963, and took the name Brother Leon William. After taking his perpetual vows on June 12, 1969, in Winona, North America, he was sent to Nicaragua, specifically to Puerto Cabezas, where the Brothers of the Christian Schools had been asked to establish a state college. He remained there for five*

years and worked actively in animation: he was president of the state college, catechist in the parish, which he equipped with tools and workers, built rural schools, and organized a local group of siphoners. In all these projects, he tried to guide young people towards a Christian way of life. As a result, he made hostile enemies, and the authorities decided that at the end of 1979, he would return to the United States of America. But Latin America was close to his heart, and upon his return there, he completed a course in hospitality and spiritual renewal in New Mexico in 1980. On January 1, 1981, he was sent to Guatemala, where a fierce civil war was raging, as well as racial conflicts between whites, plantation owners, and Indians. The Venerable Servant of God was entrusted with the work of a large institution, intended for India, which is the Indigenous Gerontopolita. This institution took in 150 boys from the countryside and mountains, allowing them to complete their studies in art as well as agriculture and animal husbandry. In November 1982, he had to return to his country for knee surgery in the city of São Paulo. Given the political and social situation in Guatemala, many people tried to dissuade him from returning, but in early 1982, he returned to Gerontopolis. On February 13, while working on the stairs as a simple mason to build the wall of this headquarters, three assassins killed him with several blows. It was around four o'clock in the afternoon, and the Venerable Servant of God died instantly. Alfredo Miller, a brother of the Christian Schools, gave the supreme testimony of faith and charity, even to the point of giving his life, through his heroic pastoral work among the poor, especially the Guatemalan Indians.

The death of the Venerable Servant of God deeply moved many people and he immediately became a true martyr. The diocesan inquisition took place between September 4 and October 10, 2009, in Gerontopolis, and on July 9, 2020, it was recognized as valid by decree of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Given

the situation, on March 20, 2018, the theological consultants met in a special meeting and voted successfully. On October 2, 2018, the Cardinal Fathers and Bishops, meeting in ordinary session, judged the death of the Venerable Servant of God to be a true martyrdom, which is why We ourselves, on the following November 7, allowed the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to issue a decree on martyrdom. We also decided that the rite of beatification would take place on December 7, 2019, in Gerontopolis, Guatemala.

Today, therefore, by order of Ourselves, Joseph Aloisius S.R.E. Cardinal Lacunza Maestrojuàn, O.A.R., Bishop of David, reads the Apostolic Letters in which We have included the Venerable Servant of God **Jacobus Alfred Miller** in the catalogue of the Blessed:

we

the wishes of our brother Alvari Leonillí, Cardinal Ramazzini Imeri, Bishop of Geronpolitán, as well as many other Brothers in the Episcopate and many faithful Christians, with the advice of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, by Our apostolic authority We permit to be a Venerable Servant of God **JAMES ALFREDUS MILLER**, professed religious of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, martyr, an excellent educator of young people and evangelical defender of the poor and oppressed, to be called in posterity by the name of Blessed and on the thirteenth day of February, on which he ascended into heaven

may be celebrated each year in the places and according to the procedures established by law.

“In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. We [declare ourselves] on matters in which you do not wish to take further action (or exercise a veto) against us. Given in Rome, at the Lateran, under the Ring of the

*Fisherman, on the seventh day of the month of December, in the year 2019, the seventh of Our Pontificate.”*

*“The Secretary of State validates this document with his signature and with the seal of the Supreme Pontiff Leo XIV. Given on the twelfth day of the month of June of the Holy Year 2025.”*

*“Pietro Card. Parolin Secretary of State”*

