

V + J

Symposium – Concluding remarks – Troyes, Set 25, 2012

Dear Sisters, confreres and friends of the Salesian Family,

We have come to the end of these very special days for all of us here in Troyes. I would like to share some concluding words.

First of all, my sincere gratitude to all of you! Thanks, in a very particular way, to Father Joseph Chorpenning, for preparing and coordinating this symposium on Fr. Brisson's Ministry and Spirituality. Thanks to those who made the presentations: Doctor Wendy Wright, Sister Ann Elizabeth Eder, Sister Madeleine-Thérèse and Father Joseph Chorpenning. You have enriched us with your wisdom and your presentations.

I would like to express also our sincere gratitude to our Oblate confreres and members of the Salesian Family in the Netherlands for their marvelous work on the DVD, film on Blessed Father Brisson. It is something that is rich and very well done and something that certainly will be helpful both inside the congregation and in our pastoral ministries.

In a very special way, on behalf of all of us, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the Oblate Sisters, particularly to the Mother Superior, Mother Françoise-Bernadette. You have prepared in such a nice way and with so much love all the ceremonies regarding the beatification of our Founder, and the entire program of what happened here during the last few days.

We owe also a very special recognition and gratitude to the Postulator of the Cause of Father Brisson, Sister Madeleine-Thérèse. Your patience, dedication and so much work done with so much love, has borne its fruits. The same recognition and gratitude we also express to Father Roger Balducelli, who has worked as well for many years on the Cause of our founder. Thank you very much, Father!

The beatification of our founder reminds us of the vocation of holiness to which we are called. As others have said these days, Father Brisson was a common person, and as such he shows us that it is possible to be a holy person in the midst of our reality. It is an invitation to go to the sources of our origins, and from there to renew our identity, our charism and our mission. It reminds us to enter our society as it is, with both feet, and to evangelize it with Salesian tools. It reminds us also that we are called to go where the people are, to listen to the signs of the times and to serve the Church in our day. It reminds us to bring the Gospel to society, to reprint it and to touch the hearts of people by it.

It is with a heart filled with gratitude, with hope and with renewed strength that we take our leave from here. In heaven we have our intercessors, our holy founders, who continue to take care of us. Let us pray for each other, let us be supportive of each other as we move forward in living and spreading our Salesian spirituality.

May God be praised!

Fr. Aldino Jose Kiesel, OSFS