

The Blessed Alexandrina Society

Founder: Francis Reynolds RIP. Spiritual Director: Fr John Mannion.

Secretary: Sheila Reynolds
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20th May 2010

Most Rev Diarmuid Martin
Archbishop of Dublin
50th International Eucharistic Congress
Holy Cross Diocesan Centre
Clonliffe Road, Dublin 3

Your Grace,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Blessed Alexandrina Society, regarding the forthcoming 50th International Eucharistic Congress being held in Dublin in 2012. We are humbly and respectfully requesting that Blessed Alexandrina Maria da Costa of Balasar, Portugal, (1904-1955), who was beatified by Pope John Paul II on 25th April 2004, be named as a Patron of this Eucharistic Congress. We believe that the following words of the late Holy Father, said about Blessed Alexandrina on the occasion of her beatification, strongly tie in with the theme of the Eucharistic Congress, "The Eucharist: Communion with Christ and with one another":-

"Do you love me?", Jesus asks Simon Peter, who replies: "Yes Lord, you know that I love you". The life of Blessed Alexandrina Maria da Costa can be summarized in this dialogue of love. Permeated and burning with this anxiety of love, she wished to deny nothing to her Saviour. With a strong will, she accepted everything to demonstrate her love for him. A "spouse of blood", she relived mystically Christ's passion and offered herself as a victim for sinners, receiving strength from the Eucharist: this became her only source of nourishment for the final 13 years of her life. With the example of Blessed Alexandrina, expressed in the trilogy "suffer, love, make reparation", Christians are able to discover the stimulus and motivation to make "noble" all that is painful and sad in life through the greatest evidence of love: sacrificing one's life for the beloved. Secret of holiness: love for Christ".

We believe that Blessed Alexandrina's extraordinary devotion to the Holy Eucharist, manifesting itself in a deep love of neighbour, shown by her constant sacrifices and prayers for the conversion of sinners, would make her a very fitting Patron for this forthcoming Congress. I am enclosing a booklet for you on the life of Blessed Alexandrina, titled "A Living Miracle of the Eucharist". We hope and pray that you will give consideration to our request.

Assuring you of our prayers at all times,

Mrs Sheila Reynolds,
on behalf of the Blessed Alexandrina Society.