



Beatification process for the Noble Spouses La Garaye

DINAN, France - The beatification investigations of Claude and Marguerite de La Garaye, born in 1675 and 1681 respectively, married in 1701, friends of St. Louis-Marie de Montfort, opened on Sunday, September 22, 2024, in the Church of Saint-Malo in Dinan. The president of the historical commission of the cause of beatification is the Dominican Jean-Marie GUEULLETTE, O.P.

Noble spouses of the first half of the 18th century, were struck by sterility caused by a fall from Madame de La Garaye's horse. The couple found their fertility elsewhere and went through the ordeal by committing themselves together, as a couple. They renounced their property and privileges in order to devote themselves body and soul to serving the sick in their own castle, which they transformed into a renowned hospital in the Dinan region.

In 1756, a year after Claude de La Garaye's death, the Bishop of Saint-Malo himself sent a letter to the faithful of the diocese praising the 'heroic virtues' of Claude de La Garaye, without it going any further, simply because the beatification of lay people, and even less so that of a couple who had not been martyred, was not yet done in the Church. The memory of the La Garayes has remained alive in their native Brittany, without break and for more than 250 years. During the apostolic visit to Sainte

Anne d'Auray on September 20, 1996, Pope Saint John Paul II himself revived the memory of those whom their first biographer, Abbé Carron, had named in 1782 "the charitable spouses" in his Lives of Mr. Count and Mrs. Countess of La Garaye.

The opening of the beatification process of the Count and Countess of La Garaye is news that rejoices the Church of France, in particular the diocese of Saint-Brieuc and Tréguier in Brittany, as well as the Montfortian Family. Indeed, in the year 1706, the mission of Dinan had put the young couple in contact with Father de Montfort, who stayed in their castle, encouraging his guests in their attention to the poor who surrounded them. In 1724, Blessed Marie-Louise of Jesus, on the occasion of the establishment of the Daughters of Wisdom in Rennes, also visited the Counts of La Garaye, who in turn would ask for three Daughters of Wisdom for a foundation in Dinan. On January 3, 1751, Father Jean-Nicolas AUDUBON, Superior General, was present at the La Garaye's castle, as well as the Daughters of Wisdom, to sign a contract to continue the work of the castellans.

The Montfortian series " *Documentation et Recherches*" dedicated to this couple the n. XV/2003 with the title "*La Garaye. The Paradise of the Poor*". Father Marcel GENDROT, SMM had recovered a beautiful painting of the couple and the altar of the chapel of their castle to keep them at the Birthplace of Father de Montfort.

Here is a prayer to ask them to intercede with God: "God of love and goodness who raised up Claude-Toussaint and Marie-Marguerite Marot de La Garaye to be charitable spouses in the service of their suffering brothers, and to give us a shining example of devotion to our fellow men, deign, in view of their merits, to grant us the graces that we ask of you (*name the desired favor*) so that, assured of their effective intercession with you, we can one day see them raised to the glory of the altars. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen."

Marco PASINATO, SMM