



Help to Bangladesh and a Newly Blessed Topics of Pope's Sunday Remarks

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During the solemn Mass in Novara yesterday (18 Nov 2007), Italian priest and philosopher Antonio Rosmini was beatified. His person and the catastrophic cyclone in Bangladesh were mentioned in the Pope Benedict XVI's speech at the midday Angelus prayer yesterday.

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Vatican: "This afternoon at Novara there will be beatified the venerable servant of God, Antonio Rosmini, a great figure of a priest and an illustrious man of culture, animated by fervid love for God and the Church," Pope Benedict XVI said yesterday after the Angelus. He also mentioned Rosmini's commitment to what he called "intellectual charity," that is reconciliation of faith and reason.

Blessed Antonio Rosmini-Serbati (1797-1855) was born in a noble family in Rovereto, but early he decided to become a priest. Having studied in Pavia and Padua, he was ordained in 1821. In 1828 he founded a religious order, the *Institute of the Charity* ("Institutum caritatis"), known as the "Rosminians," and in 1832 he founded a women's branch. Its mission is to serve through preaching, education of youth, and works of charity; communities of the institute work today in Italy, England, Ireland, France, and the USA.

Some of his works, especially the "The Five Wounds of the Holy Church" (*Le cinque piaghe della santa Chiesa*, 1848), aroused great opposition and in 1849 they were placed upon the index of prohibited books. Rosmini at once declared his submission and retired to Stresa in Piedmont, where he died in 1855. As early as before his death, the works were dismissed from the index.

The Mass in Novara, where the Servant of God was beatified, began yesterday at 3.00 pm and it was presided by Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, prefect of the *Congregation for the Causes of Saints*.

"May (Rosmini's) example help the Church, especially Italian ecclesial communities, to grow in the awareness that the light of reason and that of grace, when they walk together, become a source of benediction for the human person and for society," Pope Benedict XVI concluded the speech after the Angelus.

More information on the newly beatified is available through websites www.beatificazionerosmini.it a www.rosmini.it ...