

Conclusion of the Diocesan Process of Beatificatio for the Servant of God, Joseph Engling

Trier, Domkreuzgang, Gotischer Saal

June 17, 2008

Greeting by the Vice Postulator Professor Dr. Joachim Schmiedl ISSS

Most Reverend Bishop Robert, dear Prelate Peters and all colleagues in the Offizialat, all here present,

With the first „Sessio“ on the 11th of July 2005, Bishop Reinhard Marx reinstated the process of beatification for the Servant of God, Joseph Engling. You, Bishop Rober Brahm conclude this part of the process today. In these three years 12 witnesses have given their testimony, declared their conviction of enduring “fama sanctitatis”. A historical commission has delivered its documentation with a report of over 6000 pages. The episcopal delegate confirmed the rectitude of veneration of Joseph Engling on the basis of his own examination and the judgment of the Archbishops of Cambrai and Olsztyn.

I thank you, dear Bishop that you have taken over this process from your predecessor. My special thanks also to Prelate Peter, who had lead the actual execution. On many occasions I learned to appreciate his efficiency and his faithful pragmatism. Through these many conversations both of us have learned much about the – hopefully correct – management of the beatification process. I thank Prelate Hommens for his accompaniment of the process as the “Promotor iustitiae”. And I would especially like to thank the colleagues in the Offizialat, above all Ms. Karin Pohl, who as the notary, had the most work to do. The many seals and signatures have prepared her well for the numerous ones to come in the next big project, namely the beatification process of Fr. Joseph Kentenich.

That the process could be re-instated at all we owe to the initiative of the Pallotines, who are represented here by their general postulator, Fr. Jan Korycki, the vice postulator, Fr. Vincent Reinhart and the vice provincial superior, Fr. Norbert Possmann. Even though the beatification process requires more than a moral miracle, the fact that we could complete this process together points in this direction. Joseph Engling has proven himself as a conciliator in the common apostolic project.

The ones who have the most interest in Engling’s beatification are the members of the Schoenstatt Movement. A whole array of them are represented here; others are united with us in

their congratulations. The veneration of Joseph Engling is not limited to the Trier diocese alone. In his home town of Ermland and in the dioceses of Cambrai and Lille in northern France, he is known as the “saint of unity”. Many youth in Europe, North and South America, Africa and Australia have gotten to know him through the many memorials and names of youth hostels, and not lastly in connection with the last World Youth Day in Cologne and the upcoming World Youth Day in Sydney. That Joseph Engling’s way of life has become and can still become a prototype for the path of holiness for young people is well known to Brother of Mary, Paul M. Hannappel who is here present and who has seen it as his own life’s task. Two volumes on the topic from his own pen are to appear on the 4th of October of this year on the occasion of the 90th death day of Joseph Engling.

These few words should make it clear that a process of beatification can only be successful when it is the concern of many people. In the worldwide network of friends of Joseph Engling, this day is being eagerly accompanied. Of course, there is the hope that also the next, the Roman phase can be successfully completed. For that we need an increase in veneration. For that Joseph Engling has to step in and intercede a miracle from heaven. Which bishop from which diocese will lead the process remains to be seen.

After you, the papal legate, were able to request the beatification of Mother Rosa Flesch a few weeks ago, you now have a new “first” with the conclusion of today’s process. I ask you now to conclude the process for Joseph Engling with the tenth “sessio”.

Translation: scm, Schoenstatt