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**De La Salle Christian Brother Solomon Le Clercq, FSC Declared a Saint
Saint Solomon, Martyr of the French Revolution, Canonized October 16 in St. Peter's Square**

Washington, DC, October 16, 2016 – The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (De La Salle Christian Brothers) is celebrating the canonization of Brother Solomon Le Clercq, FSC. Saint Solomon was canonized in a ceremony October 16, 2016, in St. Peter's Square in Vatican City. Brother Solomon, a martyr of the French Revolution, was the first Brother of the Christian Schools to be martyred, and the first to be beatified.

"Brother Solomon's story invites us to reflect on what we hold dear in our faith and conviction about the dignity of the human person," said Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC, General Councilor, Lasallian Region of North America (U.S and Canada). "It motivates us to celebrate holy people who, even at the expense of losing their life, maintain their faith in God and in the goodness of all creation. It compels us to care enough to intercede for individuals and families who in our day and time suffer violence due to armed conflicts, riots, or lawlessness."

Born Nicolas Le Clercq in Boulogne, France, in 1745 to a devout family, he attended the Brothers' school there and entered the novitiate in Rouen at age 21. Before being named in 1782 as secretary to the Superior General, Brother Agathon, he had been a teacher, director, finance manager, and director of novices. He was a man of deep spirituality who was quiet, gentle, and somewhat shy, but also engaged and firm.

Brother Solomon lived during the tumultuous time of the French Revolution. When the Catholic Church became a target, all church belongings were confiscated. Clergy were required to swear the oath of "The Civil Constitution of the Clergy" denying their loyalty to the church. Brother Solomon refused to take the oath and lived in secrecy in Paris. Following his arrest on August 15, 1792, he was subject to a formal interrogation that ended with the question: "Have you taken the oath?" The answer was: "No." He was then sent to the improvised prison of the Carmelite Convent with others. On September 2, 1792, each of the 166 prisoners was put to death by the sword. Brother Solomon and his companions were beatified on October 17, 1926.

On his path to sainthood, Brother Solomon is credited with a miracle that took place in 2007. A five-year-old Venezuelan girl was cured of complications from a venomous snakebite through the prayers offered by religious Sisters, children and parishioners before their church's statue of Brother Solomon, who was venerated in the area. Against all odds, the girl survived for two days after the bite with no medical intervention. When she was taken to the hospital to have her leg amputated in order to save her life, she regained her health and the use of her leg suddenly and without explanation as if nothing had happened. The miracle was confirmed in 2016 by the diocese of Caracas at the end of a five-year process, and Pope Francis proclaimed the decree of canonization on May 10, 2016.

Saint Solomon was canonized with six others: José Luis Sánchez del Río, young martyr of the Mexican Cristeros War; Manuel González García, a Bishop of Palencia, Spain; Lodovico Pavoni, an Italian priest; Alfonso Maria Fusco, priest and founder of the Sisters of Saint John the Baptist; José Gabriel del Rosario Brochero, an Argentinian priest; and Elizabeth of the Trinity, a French Carmelite nun.

More information on the canonization of Brother Solomon can be found at www.lasallian.info/stsolomon and on Facebook and Twitter with #StSolomonFSC.

Christian Brothers Conference is the office for the Lasallian Region of North America, part of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (De La Salle Christian Brothers). The Institute is a Catholic religious order of laymen whose mission is to provide a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor. Founded by St. John Baptist de La Salle in 17th century France, today approximately 3,800 Brothers and 90,000 Partners serve more than 961,000 students in about 1,000 educational ministries in 77 countries. For more information, email communications@lasallian.info, call 202.529.0047, or visit www.lasallian.info.

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