



## Prayer in Vocation

**Canonization of Brother Mutien-Marie Wiaux, FSC (December 10)**

### **A School Prayer:**

In the person of Saint Mutien-Marie, we have an example of a Brother who lived with endurance in the daily tasks of teaching grammar school.

Loving Creator, the saints you give us in our lives show us how to see all people with the eyes of faith.

Help us to be constant in our care for our daily responsibilities and constant in the care we extend in our relationships.

We pray through your Son, our brother Jesus. Amen.

### **A Classroom Prayer:**

Jesus, you always extended a hand to those in need and took time throughout the day to talk with God.

As we enter more deeply into Advent, may we be reminded of your gift of creation around us and in us.

May we, like St. Mutien-Marie, tap into a strength of faith within us so that we may be signs of your love, like shining stars, to the people in our lives. Amen.

### **A Prayer for Parents** *(could be used in a newsletter):*

Throughout his life, Saint Mutien-Marie, shared his faith by being a patient and vigilant presence to the school children he served in one school for over 58 years. May we find a similar fortitude and faith, such that we as parents may be the constant presence of God's love in the lives of our children. Amen.

### **The Story:**

Louis Wiaux, the third of six children, was born in a small village in French-speaking Belgium where almost everyone was a devout practicing Catholic. His father was a blacksmith, while his mother helped to run a small cafe in part of the family home, where no rough language was allowed and where the evening of Belgian beer and card playing always concluded with the recitation of the rosary. Louis proved neither physically nor emotionally suited to his father's trade; he was convinced that the Lord was calling him to a different kind of forge. No sooner had he met the Brothers in a nearby school than he determined to enter the novitiate at Namur. After two years, teaching elementary classes, Brother Mutien was assigned to the boarding school at Malonne where he would spend the next fifty-eight years. He had difficulties at first coping with the demands of both teaching and prefecting but he kept at it with faith and perseverance. He was rescued by the Brother in charge of the courses in music and art, at the time an important feature of the curriculum. From then on Brother Mutien was not only an effective teacher of those subjects, a vigilant prefect in the school yard, and a catechist in the nearby parish, but a tremendous influence on the students by his patience and evident piety. He spent much of his free time in prayer. After his death at Malonne, his fame began to spread through Belgium, where many miracles were attributed to him. His relics may be venerated in Malonne at the shrine built in his honor after his canonization.