
Claverie returned home at the end of the Algerian independence war to find a different nation than when he had left. He intentionally studied Islam and learned Arabic in order to connect the Christian and Muslim populations there. He was ordained Bishop of Oran, Algeria in July of 1981.

Civil war broke out in Algeria in December of 1991. In regards to praying with Muslims, Bishop Claverie stated, “I respect their prayer, they pray for me and I pray for them, but each of us has our own tradition,” according to the National Catholic Reporter. He acknowledged and upheld the clear distinction between the two practices, yet still valued and strove for a peaceful relationship in the midst of the political and religious conflict.

On August 1, 1996, Bishop Claverie – referred to by Muslims as the bishop of the Muslims – was deliberately killed in a bomb explosion. He was among 150,000 Algerians killed in the civil war.

Claverie and 18 companions – who were also martyred in Algeria by Muslims – were beatified together in December of 2018. According to the Vatican, Pope Francis said that, “Through the Beatification of our 19 brothers and sisters, the Church wishes to bear witness to her desire to continue working for dialogue, harmony and friendship.” Blessed Claverie was known for bridging Catholicism and Islam and finding a way to live in peace despite the prevalent violence in his country. May we follow his example in looking beyond our differences and working toward a more connected and understanding world.

Blessed Claverie, pray for us!

Reflection Questions:

Do you find glimpses of God in other faith traditions? Do you believe prayer can bring people together from different faith traditions?

Missionary Saints is a service to the Church by the United States Catholic Mission Association (USCMA). The faithful have been baptized and sent on mission. USCMA accompanies all missionary-disciples – lay, religious, and ordained. Journey with us; feed the missionary impulse within you.

www.uscatholicmission.org

415 Michigan Avenue NE – Suite 102, Washington, DC 20017. 202-832-3112

Offered with love, faith, and hope