



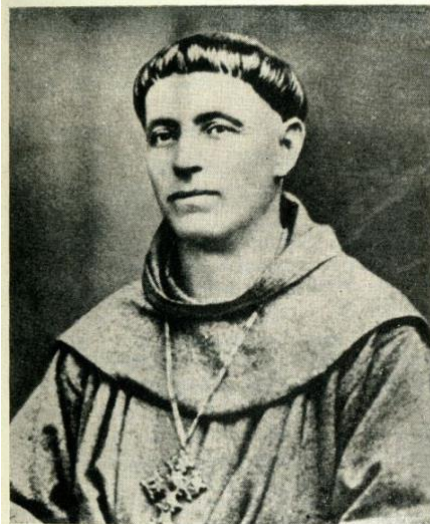
ORDO FRATRUM MINORUM MINISTER GENERALIS

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Rome, 3 September 2021
Memoria of St Gregory the Great

To: Br Emilio Luis Andrada, *Minister Provincial*
Asunción Province – Buenos Aires



El obispo fray Mamerto Esquiù.

Dear Br Emilio and all the Brothers of the Province,
May the Lord give you peace!

I want to join you as you prepare to celebrate tomorrow the Beatification of the Venerable Servant of God, Brother Mamerto Esquiù.

In 1841 the Servant of God entered the novitiate of the Friars Minor of the Asunción Province and, once solemnly professed and ordained a priest, began teaching in the seminary of Catamarca, also serving as a spiritual father. Esteemed for his piety and moral integrity, between 1855 and 1862, he held the posts of deputy and member of the Catamarca government council. His appeals for peace, brotherhood and civil collaboration contributed to creating the socio-cultural climate for the birth of the new Argentine Federal State.

In 1862, he moved to Bolivia as a missionary. Pope Leo XIII appointed him Bishop of Córdoba in Argentina. He received episcopal ordination on 12 December 1880. He distinguished himself for his doctrine and authority in his ministry and promoted holiness as the heart of priestly life and Christian commitment. The foundation of his extraordinary pastoral activity was an intense life of prayer and union with Christ. Weakened by his apostolic labours, he died quite suddenly on 10 January 1883.

His Beatification is an important occasion to thank the Lord for the gift of the Saints with whom he encourages our earthly pilgrimage so that we may be tireless peacemakers as we seek with all our might the Kingdom of God and its justice. The Friar Minor and Bishop Mamerto is a beautiful and fruitful example of this.

I encourage the brothers of the Province, all the Friars of Argentina, together with the Poor Clares and the many lay Franciscans who walk with us, from the OFS-YouFra to other bodies, to thank the Lord for this gift and to seek together ways to live its human, Christian and Franciscan inspiration in our time and in your particular reality.

I also entrust the path of the Order after the General Chapter as well as my service and that of the Definitory to the intercession of the new Blessed.

While we still want to deepen our Franciscan identity in this time, the new Blessed shows us the way that unites the search for the Face of God and the love for peace and justice, for the little ones and the poor, with all that is human.

May the Blessing of Saint Francis accompany you in the name of mercy and peace. With fraternal and affectionate greetings to each and every one of you.

Your brother and servant



Fr. Massimo Fusarelli OFM

Br Massimo Fusarelli, OFM
Minister General

Prot. MG 154/2021