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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bishop William A. Wack, CSC, to Celebrate Mass of Thanksgiving

Celebration Marks Closing of the Diocesan Phase and the beginning of the Roman Phase for the Beatification Cause of Antonio Inija and Companions.

TALLAHASSEE, FL - Bishop William A. Wack, CSC, of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving and ceremony for the closing of the Diocesan phase of the cause for canonization of Antonio Inija and his 56 Companions on October 12, 2023. The outdoor Mass will begin at 11 AM ET at the site held for the future Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Martyrs, 1759 Chaires Cross Road, Tallahassee, FL 32317. This will be followed by the closing ceremony as the findings are gathered and will be sent to the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints in Rome. The Celebration will conclude with lunch.

On October 12, 2015, the cause for beatification was officially opened allowing the appointed Historical Commission to formally begin extensive research on the numerous individuals from the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries who are reported to have died for the faith within the land that was once known as La Florida. These investigations have taken members of the Historical Commission to archives in Florida, Georgia, Missouri, and Louisiana, as well as Cuba, Mexico, Spain, London and Rome. In keeping with the Church's prudent requirements, the Historical Commission has rigorously examined each and every report of martyrdom.

"I am humbled and thrilled to celebrate the closing of the Diocesan Phase for the Beatification Cause of Antonio Inija and Companions, Martyrs of La Florida. I am grateful to the many people who have worked on this Cause over the last several decades and even centuries. May God be praised!" Wack said.

"This truly is a historic moment in time. The process of canonization is exceptionally detailed and complicated, and this event brings us one step closer in honoring, celebrating, and memorializing those that literally gave their lives for the perpetuation of their faith and Christian beliefs," stated Chris Stavres, president of the Martyrs of La Florida Missions, Petitioner for the Cause.

For more information on the Martyrs of La Florida Missions or to RSVP for the Mass and Celebration, visit <https://www.martyrsoflafloridamissions.org/>.

About The Martyrs of La Florida Missions

The Martyrs of *la Florida* Missions organization is a 501c3 ministry, included in the Official Catholic Directory, whose mission is to honor and spread devotion to the martyrs by promoting their canonization, establishing a shrine and engaging regional, national and international communities for recognition.

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