

**The Journey to Sainthood, Herman Rasschaert, SJ**

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**Sadbhavna, Ranchi:** Fr. Kulwant Minj,

SJ is a Ranchi Jesuit, doing his Licentiate in Canon Law in Rome. He is authorized by Fr. Provincial of Ranchi Province, Fr. Marianus Kujur, SJ to take up the Cause of Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God Fr. Herman Rasschaert SJ. The following details are highlighted by Fr. Kulwant:

The Servant of God Rev. Fr. Herman Rasschaert SJ

The opening ceremony of the Diocesan Inquiry

25 August 2019

So far the following steps have been taken:

1. After much consideration and extensive consultation in the Province Curia and having received the consent and approval of His Lordship Vincent Barwa, Bishop of Simdega, Rev. Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur SJ, Provincial Superior of Ranchi Jesuit Society wrote to Fr. General of the Society of Jesus on 13 September 2018 and asked him to take up the Cause of Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God Fr. Herman Rasschaert SJ and examine the life, martyrdom and reputation of martyrdom of this Servant of God Fr. Herman Rasschaert SJ.

2. Rev. Fr. Arturo Sosa SJ, the Superior General of the Society of Jesus found Fr. Herman Rasschaert SJ as an outstanding missionary who deserves our highest esteem and veneration. He also found that Rev. Fr. Herman Rasschaert SJ was martyred for peace and harmony between different religions. Without doubt, Fr. Herman Rasschaert SJ was the mediator of peace among people. He was truly martyred for the love of God and of neighbor. Therefore, having heard the opinion of the Postulator General and his consultants, Rev. Fr. Arturo Sosa SJ granted

permission to Rev. Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur SJ on 4 October 2018 and asked him to initiate the process of Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God Rev. Fr. Herman Rasschaert SJ.

3. Having received the consent of Rev. Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur SJ, the Provincial Superior of Ranchi Jesuit Society, Rev. Fr. Pascual Cebollada SJ, the Postulator General of the Society of Jesus, on 12 October 2018 appointed Fr. Kulwant Minj SJ to present Supplex Libellus to His Lordship Vincent Barwa, the Bishop of Simdega Catholic Diocese.

4. In the name of the Society of Jesus, on 5 November 2018, Fr. Kulwant Minj SJ requested His Lordship Vincent Barwa to ask for nulla osta from the Congregation of the causes of saints in order to examine the life, martyrdom and reputation of martyrdom of the Servant of God Fr. Herman Rasschaert SJ, who was born on 13 September 1922 and was martyred for Odium Fidei on 24 March 1964 at Gerda.

5. Bishop Vincent Barwa had already thought of initiating the cause of Fr. Herman Rasschaert SJ who was martyred to save the humanity. Therefore, he had consulted his brother Bishops in the JHAAN Bishops Council on July 25, 2018 who had given him their consent to move ahead with the process. So, after receiving the request from Fr. Kulwant Minj SJ, once again he personally examined the matter and consulted the priests, religious and faithful of the diocese and having verified the existence of a true and widespread reputation of martyrdom growing ever stronger after his death as well as ample evidence of the granting of graces and favours by God through his intercession, on 5 December 2018, His Lordship Vincent Barwa, Bishop of Catholic Diocese of Simdega, asked for nulla osta from the Congregation of the causes of Saints in order to initiate the Cause of Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God Fr. Herman Rasschaert SJ in Simdega Diocese.

6. The Congregation of the Causes of Saints, after investigating and examining the cause, on 26 February 2019, informed His Lordship Vincent Barwa that the Holy See is favorable to the cause of Beatification or Declaration of Martyrdom of the Servant of God Herman Rasschaert SJ, assuming that Norms to be observed in Inquiries made by Bishops in the Cause of Saints of 7 February 1983, are performed.

7. Therefore, the inaugural ceremony of the Diocesan Inquiry of the cause of Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God Rev. Fr. Herman Rasschaert SJ was held in the Cathedral of Simdega Catholic Diocese on 25 August 2019. In the same opening ceremony His Lordship Vincent Barwa appointed a board of inquiry to examine witnesses in order to discover the truth about the life, martyrdom and reputation of martyrdom of the Servant of God Rev. Fr. Herman Rasschaert SJ existing until the present day.

Fr. Kulwant Minj, SJ

