

**If we rely on the saints in France
we shall build a France of saints :
Revive the tragic story of the 11 Ursuline Martyrs,
who were guillotined in Valenciennes in 1794.**

The Ursulines in Valenciennes challenged the French Revolution and sent a message to the Church by dying as « souls full of faith ». 11 Ursulines were guillotined in Valenciennes, five of them on October 17 and six on October 23, 1794.

When Pope Benedict XV proclaimed that they were Blessed in 1920, he also asserted that « France is yearning for the title of mother of saints ! » The newspapers of Valenciennes published the following during that same period: « Rome invites us to glorify those heroic victims of the impious Revolution, for if we rely on the saints in France, we shall build a France of saints ».

In the beginning of the 21st century, the Church experienced a great need for many protectors and the martyrdom of the “Virgins of Valenciennes”, under the eyes of the People of God, must encourage us today to accept our sufferings for the Gospel.

In this new program of the series on the Pilgrims of God, dedicated to the holy martyrs of the French Revolution, listen to the hymn of the 11 Ursulines of Valenciennes, all full of love for Christ, who mounted the scaffold as models of courage, or full of fear and hesitating. But they all received the same holy crown, for the God of Christians gives the same to the last and to the first.

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