



Dom Marmion – 150th Anniversary

This year 2008 we recall the 150th anniversary of the birth of Dom Columba Marmion. It is surely the occasion to think about the Canonisation of the 3rd abbot of Maredsous, and to reply to the numerous requests which have been addressed to us from all over the world. In response to this universal aspect of the friends of Dom Marmion, we are publishing this Supplement to the Lettre de Maredsous in French and in English. We hope thus to be brought closer to you all, no matter what your language.

Since September 2000, when Father Abbot Columba was proclaimed Blessed by his Holiness Pope John Paul II, the Cause for his Canonisation has been an on-going process. This is the moment to retrace its steps. Obviously we have to mention the matter of a miracle, or miracles! We can recall the experience of Mrs Bitzan, who was cured of terminal cancer, thanks to the intercession of Dom Marmion. But if a saint is offered to the universal church, he nonetheless remains attached to his own background: of his family, as in the case of his grand-nephew, or a monk of Maredsous, who both recall him in their own fashion.

The publication of a reference book, in French, containing as many as 2,000 Letters of Blessed Columba, which have been preserved, will constitute a major contribution to this celebration of the 150th anniversary of his birth.

One of the principal architects of this edition, Dom Mark Tierney, now presents us with this correspondence.

But we wish also to show our appreciation of the numerous communities of religious women and ordinary people, who have wished to pray with Dom Marmion. We publish here two versions of the Divine Office, one by the Abbey of Maredsous, and the other by Marmion Abbey (USA), for the feast of Blessed Columba (3rd October). We are convinced that liturgical prayer, with the help of psalms and the Word of God, is very much in accord with the spirit and practice of Dom Marmion.

Good reading and good prayer!

Fr. Bernard Lorent,
Abbot of Maredsous