



ACI Webinar

# Blessed Marcel Callo YCW martyr

Marking the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death in the Mauthausen Concentration Camp in 1945.



## **THOMAS GUEYDIER OUR SPEAKER**

Thomas Gueydier is the postulator for the canonisation cause of Blessed Marcel and the author of a recent book.



**TUESDAY  
9TH  
SEPTEMBER**

**7pm AEST  
11am CET**

**MARCEL CALLO IS ONE OF  
MANY YCW AND YCS  
MARTYRS WHOSE  
SACRIFICE WE REMEMBER**

Register here:

[www.australiancardijninstitute.org](http://www.australiancardijninstitute.org)

## **ACI Media Release - Webinar 9 September 2025 - Thomas Gueydier, postulator for the cause of YCW martyr and World Youth Day patron Blessed Marcel Callo**

Thomas Gueydier, postulator for the cause for canonisation of French YCW martyr and World Youth Day patron Blessed Marcel Callo and author of a new book on the subject, will be our guest for the next Australian Cardijn Institute webinar at 7pm AEST on Tuesday 9 September 2025.

As well as being the centenary of the foundation of the YCW, this year also marks the 80th anniversary of Marcel's death as well as being the 80th anniversary of YCW lay co-founders, Fernand Tonnet and Paul Garcet.

Earlier this year, Pope Leo also approved a decree recognising the martyrdom of another 25 French YCW and YCS martyrs.

### **Our speaker**



Thomas Gueydier is a lecturer at the Catholic seminary in Rennes, France, Marcel Callo's home city.

He is the postulator for Marcel Callo's canonisation cause.

Earlier this year, he published a new book entitled "Prier 15 jours avec Marcel Callo" (Pray with Marcel Callo for a fortnight). (Details below)

## **Webinar details**

Tuesday 9 September 2025

7pm Australian Eastern Time, 11am Central European (Paris-Brussels) Time.

## **Register here**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/XsGGBXJASrSk3KKcZCphSA>

## **The life of Blessed Marcel Callo**

Born on 6 December 1921 in Rennes, France, Marcel Callo became an apprentice printer at the age of 13. Soon after he joined the Young Christian Workers movement following an inner struggle, because this meant he had to resign his position as scout troop leader, a role he had grown to love.

Aged twenty, he fell in love with Marguerite Derniaux. Nearly two years later they were engaged, adopting a strict spiritual rule of life for themselves including praying the same prayers, going to Mass together and receiving the Eucharist as often as possible.

In 1943 Marcel's sister Madeleine was killed by a bomb falling on their house.

When the Germans occupied France, Marcel was ordered to leave for Zella-Mehlis, Germany to the S.T.O., Service du Travail Obligatoire (Compulsory Labour Service).

"I am going there not as a worker but as a missionary," he told his loved ones.

Forced to work in a factory that produced bombs, he became seriously depressed, and prayed for enlightenment.

He wrote to Marguerite: "One day Christ answered me. He told me I was not to give in to despair; that I should take care of my fellow workers – and I found joy again." The barrack inmates soon became a closely-knit community. They ate their meager meals around a common table, prayed together, and participated at Mass every month. Once again Marcel became the leader, just as he had been at in the Rennes YCW.

Eventually, on 19 March, 1944, Marcel was arrested for activities against the Third Reich. "Monsieur is too much of a Catholic," his captors told him.

As a result, he was imprisoned in Gotha where he secretly received the Eucharist while in prison and continued to pray and help his companions. Once again, these activities brought him to the attention of the Nazi authorities, who moved him to another prison at Mauthausen in Austria.

Rapidly, he fell victim to a series of ailments and illnesses, bronchitis, malnutrition, dysentery, fever, swelling, and generalised weakness.

Despite his suffering, he encouraged his companions by saying, "It is in prayer that we find our strength."

He died on the feast of St Joseph, 19 March, 1945, exactly two years from the day he left home. Pope John Paul II beatified Marcel Callo on October 4, 1987.

In 2023, Pope Francis named him as one of the patrons for World Youth Day.