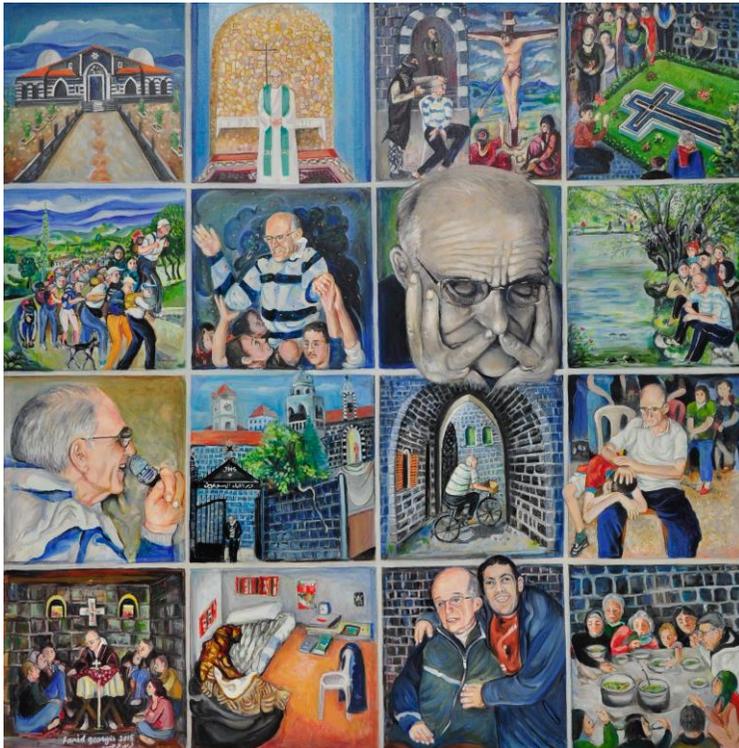


NOVENA FOR SYRIA

As we approach the 3rd Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Fr Frans van der Lugt SJ and praying for the immediate release of Fr Paolo



Prayer and intercession for peace in Syria

God of Compassion,
Hear the cries of the people of Syria;
Comfort those who suffer violence;
Console those who mourn the dead;
Give strength to those countries who welcome the
refugees;
Convert the hearts of those who have taken up
arms
And protect those who are committed to peace.
God of hope,
May the memory of your martyr Fr Frans, whose
anniversary we commemorate, inspire leaders and
all people of good will to choose peace over
violence and to seek reconciliation with their
enemies.
Inflame the Universal Church with compassion for
all the people of Syria
And give us hope for a future built on justice for
all.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Prince of
Peace and Light of the world.
Amen

Prayer for the release of Fr Paolo and all held in captivity

God of Mercy,

Hear our prayers for the immediate release of your priest Paolo, and of all those held in captivity amid the horrors of conflict in the Middle East;

Turn the hearts of their captors to compassion and justice;

Inspire all those working for their release to find a way to bring our brother Paolo and all those held against their will to freedom and safety.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

Our Lady, Queen of the Society of Jesus, pray for them;

St Ignatius, pray for them;

All the martyrs of England, pray for them;

St Charbel, pray for them.

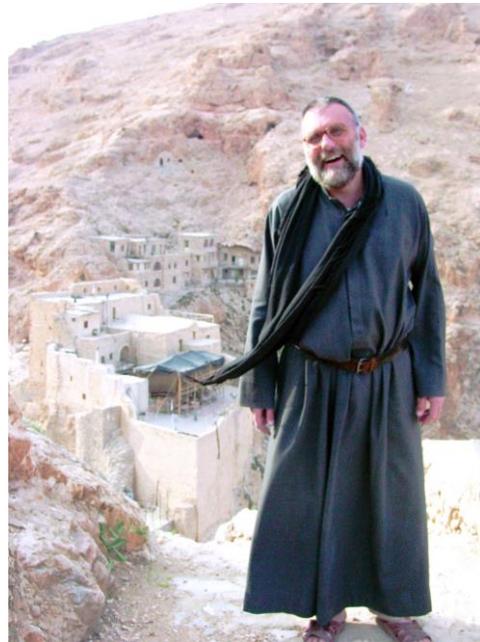


Fr Frans van der Lugt , SJ was assassinated outside the Jesuit Community house in Homs on the morning of 7th April 2014. He had lived in Syria for more than 40 years, and was dedicated to reconciliation

Picture from Jesuits in Britain

between Muslims and Christians. Just before his murder, he was providing pastoral and practical help for about 75 Christians trapped in the Old City of Homs as well as offering accommodation in the Jesuit Community to about 45 Muslims. Fr Frans is remembered as a martyr of reconciliation in the Middle East.

Fr Paolo dall'Oglio, SJ re-founded the Deir Mar Musa, a sixth-century monastery 50 miles north of Damascus, which over 30 years he developed into a centre for interfaith dialogue." As on 29th July 2013, nothing of substance has been heard of him. In 2014 he was awarded (*in absentia*) the Nobel Missionary Prize by the Missionary Association, Cuore Amico Fraternità. for his "great witness and strong commitment to interreligious dialogue". Pope Francis is among many who continue to call for his immediate release.



Picture from Aid to Church in Need