



GIVING THEIR OWN LIVES

even to the point of shedding their blood

6 NOVEMBER

BLESSED SPANISH MARTYRS
(1936 - 1937)

Memoria ad libitum

During 1930's, the Church in Spain was the object of a fierce offensive on the juridical, administrative and physical levels. This offensive began with legislation that impeded religious worship and other activities and in a short time it turned into a ferocious and bloody persecution. In addition to losing an immense amount of artistic heritage, a climate of terror was established. Freedom of worship was limited, churches and even cemeteries were violated and destroyed, priests and religious were systematically slandered, threatened and obliged to abandon parishes and communities; many suffered humiliating incarceration and, finally, many of these were barbarically assassinated. The revolutionary terror reached its peak from 1936 to 1939.

In this sad but glorious framework 165 Brothers of the Christian Schools, with Brother Leonard Joseph, Provincial, at their head, are included. Their martyrdom took place in different places and at different times and for that reason they are grouped together in 11 different canonical processes, according to the Diocese in which they suffered: 7 in Almeria, 44 in Barcelona, 5 in Cartagena, 5 in Ciudad Real, 37 in Madrid, 39 in Tarragona, 4 in Toledo and 5 in Valencia.

Over the years 144 of them have been beatified and 9 have been canonized.

MASS

Common of Martyrs: For many martyrs

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Ps 33: 20-21

Many are the troubles of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him from them all. He watches over all his bones; not one of them shall be broken.

OPENING PRAYER (COLLECT)

God our Father,
through the help of the Mother of God,
you have conformed the blessed martyrs Leonard Joseph
and his companions to the image of Christ
even to the shedding of their blood:
grant, we beseech you, that through their example
and intercession we may be strengthened
to profess our faith by words and deeds.
Through Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING

1 Pet 4: 12-19

Rejoice to the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ.

A reading from the first letter of Peter

Beloved, do not be surprised that a trial by fire is occurring among you, as if something strange were happening to you. But rejoice to the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that when his glory is revealed you may also rejoice exultantly. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let no one among you be made to suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as an intriguer. But whoever is made to suffer as a Christian should not be ashamed but glorify God because of the name. For it is time for the judgment to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, how will it end for those who fail to obey the gospel of God?

“And if the righteous one is barely saved, where will the godless and the sinner appear?” As a result, those who suffer in accord with God’s will hand their souls over to a faithful creator as they do good.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 116

R/. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints

I kept faith, even when I said,
"I am greatly afflicted!"
I said in my alarm,
"No one can be trusted!"
How can I repay the Lord
for all the good done for me?
I will raise the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.
Too costly in the eyes of the Lord

is the death of his faithful.
Lord, I am your servant,
your servant, the child of your maidservant;
you have loosed my bonds.

I will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,
In the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 5: 10

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Jn 15: 18-21

If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.

A reading from the gospel according to John

If the world hates you, realize that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, the world would love its own; but because you do not belong to the world, and I have chosen you out of the world, the world hates you. Remember the word I spoke to you, 'No slave is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. And they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know the one who sent me.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Receive of heavenly Father, the gifts that we offer in memory of the blessed martyrs Leonardo José and his companions, who have shed their blood for the faith, and grant that we persevere in confessing your name. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Lk 22: 28-3

It is you who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer a kingdom on you, that you may eat and drink at my table.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Instill in us, O Lord, the wisdom of the cross that enlightened your martyrs Leonardo José and his companions, so that, fortified by this sacrifice, we may adhere fully to Christ and that we may collaborate in the Church in its work for the redemption of the world. Through Christ our Lord.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Common of Martyrs: For many martyrs

OFFICE OF READINGS

SECOND READING

A reading from the Sermons of St. Augustin, bishop.

(Sermon 329, In Natale Martyrum: PL 38, 1454-1456)

*Precious is the death of the martyrs,
bought with the price of the death of Christ.*

Through such glorious achievements of the holy martyrs with which the Church blossoms everywhere, we are ourselves proving to our own eyes how true are the words we have been singing that *precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints*. For it is precious both in our sight and in the sight of him in whose name the death took place.

But the price of those deaths is the death of one man. How many deaths did that one man purchase by his death, for, if he had not died, the grain of corn would not be multiplied? You heard his words when he drew near to his passion, that is when he was drawing near to our redemption: *Unless the grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.*

On the cross he carried out a vast transaction; there the purse of our price was unfastened and when his side was opened by the lance of the soldier there streamed the price of the whole earth. Now the faithful ones and martyrs have been purchased, but the faithfulness of the martyrs has been proved : their blood is the proof The price paid for them they have repaid, and they have fulfilled what Saint John says, *As Christ laid down his life for us, so we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

In another place it is stated, *At a great table you have sat ; now carefully consider what has been put before you, since it is your duty to prepare for such things.* That table is great where the Lord of the table is himself the meal. No one feeds guests with himself as food, but this is exactly what the Lord Christ does ; he himself is the host who invites ; he himself is the food and the drink. Therefore the martyrs have recognized what they were eating and drinking so as to be able to repay such gifts.

But whence can they make such return unless he who first paid the cost supplies the source from which restitution may be made? That is the reason for the Psalm, where we sing what is written, *Precious is the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.* What does commend to us ?

There a man has considered what great things he has received from God ; he has scrutinized the great gifts of the grace of the Almighty who created him, who sought him when lost, who fashioned him when found, who helped him when struggling with enfeebled strength, who never

withdrew himself from him in danger, who crowned him as victor, who offered himself as a reward. All these things he considered, and exclaimed and said, *What shall I render to the Lord for all his bounty to me? I will receive the cup of salvation.*

What is that cup ? Is the cup of suffering, bitter, and yet bringing salvation, the cup which a sick man would fear to touch if his physician did not drink at first. This is that cup. We recognize that cup on the lips of Christ when he says, *My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me.*

Concerning this very cup, the martyrs have said, *I will receive the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord.* Are you not afraid that you will fail? No, he says. Why? Because *I will call on the name of the Lord.* How could the martyrs conquer, unless Christ conquered in the martyrs, for he said, *Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world ?*

The Commander of the heavens was ruling the minds and tongues of the martyrs, and by them was overcoming the devil on the earth, and in heaven was crowning the martyrs. O blessed ones, who have thus drunk of that cup ! They have finished their woes and have received honours.

Listen therefore, beloved brethren; what you cannot see with your eyes, you must study with your mind and intellect, and see that *precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.*

RESPONSORY

Rev 21: 4; 7, 16

R/. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes ; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. * The world of the past has gone.

V/. They will never hunger or thirst again ; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them. * The old order...

PRAYER

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through the help of the Mother of God,
you have conformed the blessed martyrs Leonard Joseph
and his companions to the image of Christ
even to the shedding of their blood:
grant, we beseech you, that through their example
and intercession we may be strengthened
to profess our faith by words and deeds.
Through Christ our Lord.

MORNING PRAYER

Ant. Ben. Whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. (T.P. Alleluia)

INTERCESSIONS

Intentions...

Our Father.

PRAYER

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Through Christ our Lord.

EVENING PRAYER

Ant. Magn. The saints find their home in the kingdom of heaven; their life is eternal peace.
(T.P. Alleluia)

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Intentions...

Our Father.

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