

1 February

**Blessed Philip of Jesus Munarriz Azcona, Priest,
and Companions, Religious and Martyrs**

Memorial

From the Common of Martyrs: For Several Martyrs.

Collect

God our Father, with the help of the Mother of God,
you made the Priest Blessed Philip of Jesus
and his companions, religious and martyrs,
images of Christ, even to the shedding of their blood;
grant we beseech you, that through their example and intercession
we may be strengthened to firmly profess the faith by words and deeds.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever.

1 February

**Blessed Philip of Jesus Munarriz Azcona, Priest,
and Companions, Religious and Martyrs**

Memorial

Common of martyrs.

FIRST READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

8:31-39

Neither death nor life can ever come between us and the love of God.

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Jesus Christ? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God’s right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. As scripture promised: For your sake we are being massacred daily, and reckoned as sheep for the slaughter. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height, or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 123: 2-3.4-5.7-8. R/. v.7

R. Our soul has escaped like a bird from the hunter’s net.

If the Lord had not been on our side
when men rose against us,
then would they have swallowed us alive
when their anger was kindled. **R/.**

Then would the waters have engulfed us,
the torrent gone over us;
over our heads would have swept
the raging waters. **R/.**

Indeed the snare has been broken
and we have escaped.
Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth. *R/.*

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 5:10

Alleluia, alleluia!
Happy are they who suffer persecution for justice' sake;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

17:11-19

The world hates them.

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said,
'Holy Father,
keep those you have given me true to your name,
so that they may be like us.
While I was with them,
I kept those you had given me true to your name.
I have watched over them and not one is lost
except the one who chose to be lost,
and this was to fulfil the scriptures.
But now I am coming to you
and while still in the world I say these things
to share my joy with them to the full.
I passed your word on to them,
and the world hated them,
because they belong to the world
no more than I belong to the world.
I am not asking you to remove them from the world,
but to protect them from the evil one.
They do not belong to the world
any more than I belong to the world.
Consecrate them in the truth; your word is truth.
As you sent me into the world,
I have sent them into the world,
and for their sake I consecrate myself
so that they too may be consecrated in the truth.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

1 February

**Blessed Philip of Jesus Munarriz Azcona, presbyter,
and companions, religious and martyrs**

Memorial

184 members of the Congregation of the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary were martyred in the religious persecution against the Church in Mexico (1927) and in Spain (1936-1939). Blessed Andres Sola Molist was arrested and later executed together with a diocesan priest and a layman on April 25, 1927 at the ranch of San Joaquín, next to the Mexican city of León. Blessed Philip de Jesus Munarriz Azcona, Superior of the “Martyr Seminary” of Barbastro (Huesca), received martyrdom along with 50 missionaries in the month of August 1936; Blessed Joseph Maria Ruiz Cano and 22 missionaries, killed in the first days of the civil war in Tarragona, Fernan Caballero (Ciudad Real) and Sigüenza (Guadalajara); Blessed Mathew Casals Mas, Teofilo Casajus Alduan, Fernando Saperas Aduja and 106 martyrs from the communities of Barcelona, Castro Urdiales (Cantabria), Cervera (Lérida), Lérida, Sabadell (Barcelona), Valencia, and Vic-Solsona, during the same persecution. All of them remained faithful to their missionary vocation and gave clear testimony of forgiveness to their executioners, love of the Heart of Mary and the Church, concern for the poor and fervent missionary zeal.

From the Common of Several Martyrs.

Office of Readings

SECOND READING

From the writings of Saint Antony Mary Claret, bishop and founder

(Autobiography; cap. 28, nn. 414-415.421-424)

Mortification

I know that in a single act of mortification one may practice many other virtues, depending on the different intentions one has in performing each act. Thus, for example: one who mortifies his body to check concupiscence performs an act of the virtue of temperance. If he does so to set his life in proper order, he performs an act of the virtue of prudence. If he does so to make satisfaction for his past sins, he performs an act of justice. If he does so to overcome difficulties in his spiritual life, he performs an act of fortitude. If he does so to offer sacrifice to God by depriving himself of something pleasant and doing something bitter or repugnant to himself, he performs an act of the virtue of religion. If he does so to receive greater enlightenment in understanding the attributes of God, he performs an act of faith. If he does so to make his salvation more secure, he performs an act of hope. If he does so to help convert sinners or to free the souls in purgatory, he performs an act of fraternal charity. If he does so to have more to give the poor, he performs an act of the virtue of mercy. If he does so to please God more and more, he performs an act of love of God.

In every act of mortification, I can practice all ten of these virtues, depending on the intention I form in doing the action. I know that three hundred years of faithful service to God are rewarded, and more than rewarded, by one hour of pain that I am allowed to suffer, so great is its worth. Jesus, my Master! It is the man who is tried, persecuted, and

deprived of friends; the man who bears the outer cross of work and the inner cross of spiritual dryness; the man who holds his tongue, suffers and endures out of love; this is the man you love, the man who pleases you and counts in your esteem.

Thus, it is that I have resolved never to vindicate, excuse, or defend myself whenever I am censured, misjudged, and persecuted because I would then be the loser in the eyes of God and of men. Yes, men would shape even the truth of my reasons into weapons to turn against me. I believe that everything comes from God and that God expects of me the tribute of suffering patiently for his love's sake every injury to my body, soul, and honour. I believe that I do the most for God's greater glory when I hold my tongue and suffer like Jesus, who died on the cross, deprived of everything. Doing and suffering are the greatest proofs of love.

Alternative:

From the Letter of farewell to the Congregation of blessed Faustino Pérez Garcia, religious and martyr

(G. Campo Villegas, *Esta es nuestra sangre*. Madrid 1990, pp. 242-243)

The blood of the martyrs, missionary strength

Beloved Congregation. The day before yesterday, the eleventh, six of our brothers died with a generosity befitting martyrs. Today, the thirteenth, twenty more have won the palm of victory, and tomorrow, the fourteenth, the remaining twenty-one of us expect to die. Glory to God! Glory to God! And how nobly and heroically your sons have borne themselves, beloved Congregation! We are spending the day encouraging one another and praying for our enemies and for our beloved Institute. When the moment comes to designate the next victims, we all feel a holy serenity and an eagerness to hear our names called, so that we can join the ranks of the chosen. We have been looking for-ward to this moment with generous impatience. When it came to those already chosen, we have seen some of them kiss the ropes that bound them, while others spoke words of pardon to -the armed mob. As they drove off in the van towards the cemetery, we could hear them shouting, 'Long live Christ the King!' while the angry mob answered, 'Death to him! Death to him!' -but nothing daunted them. They are your sons, beloved Congregation, these young men, surrounded by pistols and rifles, yet they have the calm courage and daring to cry out 'Long live Christ the King!' on their way to the cemetery. Tomorrow the rest of us will go, and we have already chosen the passwords we will shout, even as the shots are being fired: to the Heart of our Mother, to Christ the King, to the Catholic Church, and to you, the common Mother of us all. My comrades tell me that I must begin the 'Viva's' and they will respond. I will shout at the top of my lungs, and in our enthusiastic cries you will be able to discern how much we love you, beloved Congregation, since we will bear the memory of you even into those deep regions of suffering and death.

We all die happy, with no regrets or misgivings. We all die praying God that the blood that falls from our wounds will not be shed in vengeance but will rather transfuse your veins and spur your growth and expansion throughout the world. Farewell, beloved Congregation. Your sons, the martyrs of Barbastro, greet you from prison and offer you our sufferings and anguish as a holocaust of expiation for our failings and as a witness to our faithful, generous and everlasting love. The martyrs of tomorrow, the 14th, are fully aware that they die on the eve of the Assumption. And what a special awareness it is! We are dying because we wear the cassock, and we are dying precisely on the same

day we were invested in it.

The martyrs of Barbastro greet you, as do I, the last and least worthy of their number, Faustino Pérez, CMF.

Long live Christ the King! Long live the Heart of Mary! Long live the Congregation! Farewell, beloved Institute. We are going to heaven to pray for you. Farewell, farewell!

RESPONSORY

Mt 5:10-12

R/. Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of right; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. * Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

V/. Blessed are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. * Rejoice and be glad for your reward will be great in heaven.

Prayer

God our Father, with the help of the Mother of God, you made the Priest Blessed Philip of Jesus and his companions, religious and martyrs, images of Christ, even to the shedding of their blood; grant we beseech you, that through their example and intercession we may be strengthened to firmly profess the faith by words and deeds. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.