

February 1st

BLESSED CLARETIANS MARTYRS

Memorial

They are martyrs murdered for their faith in Christ during the religious persecution which took place in the Spanish civil war that from 1936 to 1939 bloodied the ancient and noble Iberian nation. All of them belonged to the Congregation of Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Claretian Missionaries). Although in different places and dates, they all suffered the same tragic death in those years, never bowing to the insinuations of their persecutors. They were all missionaries: priests, brothers and students. The youngest was only 16 years old. To these we must add the blessed martyr Andrés Solá, murdered in Mexico (1927).

From the Common of Several Martyrs with the psalmody of the day.

INVITATORY

Ant. Come, let us worship Christ, the King of martyrs.

Invitatory Psalm as in Ordinary Time

HYMN

Martyrs of the Church of Jesus,
Martyrs, with great passion you died for Jesus' Kingdom.
Your blood is still running through our veins,
Blood of pardon, forgiveness and love,
Of hope unbroken.

Courageous and brave young Claretians!
We keep fresh in our memory your passion.
You are the inheritance of the Claretian family
That through you is already crowned in glory.

You were never afraid of cruel death.
Bravely singing you went to your torture,
Not even bullets were able to detach you
From the love you professed for your Lord Jesus.

All the people who know of your great courage
Draw from you strength and inspiration.
You proclaim by the shedding of your blood:
It's worth dying for the Lord and for his Kingdom.

Office of Readings

SECOND READING

**From the Autobiography of Saint Anthony Mary Claret,
bishop and founder**

(Chapter XXVIII, 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 300 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 honor. 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”.

RESPONSORY

Mt 5:10 -12

R. Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of uprightness: the kingdom of Heaven is theirs. * Blessed are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you falsely on my account.

V. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

R. This is how they persecuted the prophets before you.

PRAYER

Lord, Our Father, who, with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary, led the blessed Claretian Martyrs to the imitation of Christ, even with the shedding of their blood, grant us, by their example and intercession, to confess our faith with strength, in word and deed. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

LAUDS AND VESPERS

HYMN

As in Office of Readings

PRAYER

Lord, Our Father, who,
with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
led the blessed Claretian Martyrs to the imitation of Christ,
even with the shedding of their blood,
grant us, by their example and intercession,
to confess our faith with strength, in word and deed.
Through Christ Our Lord.

Mass

From the Common of Several Martyrs Outside Easter Time

Entrance antiphon

*On earth the holy martyrs have shed their blood for Christ,
that is why they have attained the eternal reward.*

COLLECT

Lord, Our Father, who,
with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
led the blessed Claretian Martyrs to the imitation of Christ,
even with the shedding of their blood,
grant us, by their example and intercession,
to confess our faith with strength, in word and deed.
Through Christ Our Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, holy Father, the offerings we bring
in commemoration of the Blessed Claretian Martyrs,
and grant that we, your servants,
may be found steadfast in confessing your name.
Through Christ our Lord.

Or

We bring you sacrificial offerings, O Lord,
to commemorate the Blessed Claretian Martyrs,

humbly entreating that, as you gave them the bright light of holy faith, so you may grant us pardon and peace.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Rom 8, 38-39

Neither death, nor life, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Through this heavenly Sacrament, O Lord,
grant us manifold grace on the celebration
of the Blessed Claretian Martyrs,
that from so great a struggle we may learn to be united
in unwavering patience and to exult in the victory
they won for love of you. Through Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING

Neither death, nor life, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reading from the letter of Sr. Paul to the Romans **8:31-39**

What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ (Jesus) who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? As it is written:

"For your sake we are being slain all the day;
we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Had not the LORD been with us,
let Israel say, had not the LORD been with us—
When men rose up against us,
then would they have swallowed us alive;
When their fury was inflamed against us.

R. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Then would the waters have overwhelmed us;
The torrent would have swept over us;

over us then would have swept the raging waters.
Blessed be the LORD, who did not leave us
a prey to their teeth.

R. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

We were rescued like a bird
from the fowlers' snare;
Broken was the snare,
and we were freed.
Our help is in the name of the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

R. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Or

Reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians
2Cor 4:7-15

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall be ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the LORD;
the lowly will hear me and be glad.

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Glorify the LORD with me,

Let us together extol his name.
I sought the LORD, and he answered me
And delivered me from all my fears.

R. *Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy.
And your faces may not blush with shame.
When the afflicted man called out, the LORD heard,
And from all his distress he saved him.

R. *Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

The angel of the LORD encamps
around those who fear him and delivers them.
Taste and see how good the LORD is;
blessed the man who takes refuge in him.

R. *Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

Alleluia

Mt 5:10

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

GOSPEL

Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John **7:11-19**

And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the
world, while I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in

your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are.

When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely. I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep 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, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth.

Or

Alleluia

Lk 23:46

Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

GOSPEL

Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John

Jn 15: 18-21

INTERCESSIONS

Let us ask the Lord, with faith and trust, that our lives be a continuous offering in service and generosity for our brothers:

Father, listen to your children's prayer.

Different intercessions can be added.

Almighty and ever-living God,
who save us from every tribulation,
and heal us of every affliction
by the power that ever flows
from the sacrifice of your only-begotten Son,
increase in us, we pray,
that indefectible hope in the Cross
that was the strength of your martyrs,
and that remains, today and always,
the joy and gladness of your Church.
Through Christ our Lord.