

**1 February**

**Blessed Philip of Jesus Munárriz 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 Munárriz Azcona, Superior of the "Martyr Seminary" of Barbastro (Huesca), received the martyrdom along with 50 missionaries in the month of August of 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 (Lleida), Lleida, 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.

## The Common of Martyrs. For Several Martyrs.

### Invitatory

**Ant.** They have washed their robes clean in the blood of the Lamb.

Invitatory Psalm as in the Ordinary

### Office of Readings

#### HYMN

Witnesses of faith and the Gospel,  
Claretian martyrs,  
glory of the Congregation and the Church,  
proclamation of the risen Lord,  
prophets of love and hope,  
Claretian Martyrs.

Friends of the Lord till death,  
you lived with joy without end.  
The martyrs' blood of your offering  
the shining crown of sacrifice.

Your body was wheat, now bread,  
baked in the ashes of commitment.  
Your shed blood runs living  
through the Congregation and the Church

You are a prophecy of love and pardon  
and clear witnesses of hope.  
Put pardon and love in our lives  
and the joy of proclaiming a new dawn.

Singing to Christ the King you won heaven,  
nostalgia leaves us in your flight.  
Mary is your Mother and your Queen:  
her pure heart is your heaven. Amen.

## SECOND READING

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

*(Autobiography, chapter 28, nos. 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”.

**Or**

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

*(Gabriel Campo Villegas, CMF, "ÉSTA ES NUESTRA SANGRE, 51 Mártires Claretianos, Barbastro, agosto 1936", Publicaciones Claretianas, Madrid, España, 1990, pages 242-243)*

*The blood of the martyrs, missionary strength*

*“Beloved Congregation. The day before yesterday, the 11th, six of our brothers died with a generosity befitting martyrs. Today, the 13th, twenty more have won the palm of victory, and tomorrow, the 14th, 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**

**℟** Blessed are those who are persecuted for the cause of justice, theirs is the kingdom of heaven. \* Rejoice and be glad for your reward will be great in heaven.

**℣** 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,  
who brought Blessed Philip of Jesus, presbyter,  
and companions, religious and martyrs,  
with the help of the Mother of God,  
to the imitation of Christ  
even to the shedding of their blood,  
grant us, by their example and intercession,  
to confess the faith with fortitude, by word and deed.  
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.

## Morning and Evening Prayer

### HYMN

*As at the Office of Readings*

### Prayer

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