



Marianist Moments

Feast of Blesseds Miguel Leibar, SM, Florencio Arnaiz, SM,
Joaquin Ochoa, SM, and Sabino Ayastuy, SM

November 6

~ Meeting aid ~



Introduction

On November 6, the Marianist Family celebrates the feast of Blesseds Miguel Leibar, SM, Florencio Arnaiz, SM, Joaquin Ochoa, SM, and Sabino Ayastuy, SM, who were the Marianist martyrs of Madrid during the Spanish Civil War. These Marianist religious were part of a group of 498 Spanish martyrs who were declared Blessed by Pope Benedict XVI in 2008.

Prayer

Adapted from Prayers for Marianist Days and Feasts

✠ Eternal God, you granted the blessed martyrs Miguel, Florencio, Joaquin, and Sabino, the favor of committing their lives to education under the care and guidance of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the courage to be witnesses to faith in Christ. Grant us the courage to be faithful emulators of their witness in our lives and communities. We pray for your mercy, peace, and justice all over the world. We make this prayer through Jesus your Son. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Luke 9: 23-26, RSVCE

And he said to all, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake, he will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

Silent Introspection

"Martyrs of Madrid," marianist.com

Contemplate the following texts on Blesseds Miguel Leibar, Florencio Arnaiz, Joaquin Ochoa, and Sabino Ayastuy, the Marianist martyrs of Madrid.

Miguel Léibar Garay was a Marianist priest and educator. He was a devoted teacher and principal in the Marianist schools of Spain and also served as a director of the Marianist community he lived in. Don Miguel's words summarize the Marianist education mission during his time: *The great wish of my life is to guide souls on the path to heaven.*

Florencio Arnaiz was a Marianist priest and educator. He spoke of his challenges as a religious educator, saying: *The intention of serving Mary all the days of my life energizes me to overcome all difficulties.*

Joaquin Ochoa was a Marianist priest and educator. His words about his vocation are prophetic: *I want to enlist forever under the banner of Mary, to work for her honor until the hour comes for me to die in her service."*

Sabino Ayastuy Errasti was a Marianist priest and educator who taught in Marianist schools in Spain. The legacy of all the four Marianist martyrs of Madrid is captured in the words Errasti wrote: *My supreme ambition in this life is summed up in this one sentence: "Ad pedes piissimae Matris meae vivere volo et mori cupio."* [translation: *At the feet of my most Blessed Mother I wish to live and desire to die.*]

Group Sharing

How do the Marianist martyrs of Madrid inspire you in your faith and Marianist vocation today?



(Image: Marianist Martyrs of Madrid)

✠ May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen.