



Rome, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2013

To the whole Congregation

**The 6<sup>th</sup> of November: memorial liturgy of the martyrs**

Dear brothers and sisters:

As you all know, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October just past, our brothers Teófilo, Isidro, Gonzalo, Eladio and Mario, were beatified and declared martyrs of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in Spain. In the beatification decree, Pope Francis fixed the 6th November as the date of the memorial liturgy for the 522 martyrs beatified on this occasion.

We have begun the process with the Holy See through which the memorial of the five martyrs will be included in the official liturgical calendar of the Congregation, and we will get official approval of a collect and a second Reading for the office of the Liturgy of the Hours. While this process is underway, I invite you already to celebrate the liturgical memorial of our martyrs this year in the following manner:

- The liturgical category is "memorial".
- The common of various martyrs is taken for the Liturgy of the Hours as well as for the Mass. The colour is red..
- While we are waiting for the texts approved by the Holy See. The Martyrs can be mentioned in the following manner. (*ad libitum*):
  - a) "Blessed Teófilo and companions, martyrs".
  - b) "Blessed Teófilo, Isidro, Gonzalo, Eladio and Mario, martyrs".
- I suggest that we use the first Reading, the responsorial psalm and the gospel that was used in the Mass of the beatification ceremony: Apocalypse 12,10-12a; Psalm 33, 2-3. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9 (R/: 5b); Luke 9,23-26.

The liturgical celebration of the martyrs is an act of thanksgiving to God for the gift of faith, which is worth more than life itself, and it is also a prayer of petition so that the Spirit would strengthen us in the charity and courage of the martyrs. *"May we, his sons, inherit the heroic spirit of the Good Father, our founder."* –Fr. Teófilo used to say to his students- *"and if difficult days come, may we be firm in our faith and determined to work for it."*

The time of the foundation of the Congregation was a troubled and violent time, full of political and social ambiguity. So too was the time of our five martyrs. All of us are immersed in a history which is full of contradictions. But, where life is surrendered because of our faith in Jesus and with love in our hearts, ambiguity ends and the luminous action of God emerges.

Let us give thanks to the Lord who has blessed our community in the acknowledgement of these martyred brothers of ours; and let us celebrate their memorial in the liturgy of the risen Christ on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November.

United in the love of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Javier Álvarez-Ossorio ssc  
Superior General