HOLY HEARTS · EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Sown in blood

Martyrdom as a religious vocation

Feast of the Blessed

Teófilo Fernández de Legaria Goñi and companions, martyrs

6 November 2026

Based on an article by Poldo Antolín sscc (Ibérica)

I INTRODUCTION

Leader: Brothers and sisters, we gather before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament to give thanks for the witness of the Blessed Teófilo Fernández de Legaria Goñi, Isidro Íñiguez de Ciriano Abad, Gonzalo Barrón Nanclares, Eladio López Ramos and Mario Ros Ezcurra, members of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts who, in 1936, chose to give up their lives rather than renounce their faith.

Their martyrdom was, as Poldo Antolín reminds us, a way of sealing their vows of religious profession with their own blood. Those who one day said 'yes' to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary continued to say so until the very end.

This adoration is intended as a way of looking to them so that we may look more clearly to Christ, whose heart was pierced on the cross, and ask him that our lives too—even if they do not involve the martyrdom of blood—may be made whole and offered up.

II ENTRANCE HYMN

Laudate, omnes gentes / Laudate, Dominum (Taizé)

III EXPOSITION AND OPENING PRAYER

Everyone on their knees, in silence for a moment.

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, here you are, alive and self-sacrificing, in the Bread that is broken and given. You who loved us so much that you gave your life, look upon this family gathered in your presence. You know us; you know what weighs upon us and what we hope for. We give you thanks for the brothers who loved you more than their own lives. Grant that we may see through their eyes and love with their hearts. You who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

✦ *Silence of adoration* ✦

IV THE WORD OF GOD

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John (12:24–26)

24 Truly, truly, I say to you: unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth
and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 Whoever
loves their own life loses it, and whoever hates their own life in this
world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever wishes to serve me must
follow me; and where I am, there also will my servant be; and whoever
serves me, the Father will honour.

Psalm 115 (116), 12–19

Antiphon: *'The death of the Lord's faithful is a great sorrow to him' (Ps 115:15)*

12 How shall I repay the Lord
for all the good he has done for me?

13 I will lift up the cup of salvation,
calling upon the name of the Lord.

14 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all the people.

15 It is a heavy burden for the Lord
the death of his faithful ones.

16 Lord, I am your servant,
your servant, the son of your handmaid:
you have broken my chains.

17 I will offer you a sacrifice of praise,
calling upon the name of the Lord.

18 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all the people,

19 in the courtyard of the Lord's house,
in the midst of you, Jerusalem.

✦ *Silence to let the Word resound* ✦

V MEDITATION: SOWN IN BLOOD

1. 'Yet Our Lord went further for us'

Voice 1: Martyrdom continues Christ's self-sacrifice on the cross and entails an identification with that death which conquered death and brought true Life. For this reason, after the Gospel, nothing shaped early Christian spirituality as much as martyrdom. Religious life came into being so that this example might not be lost, even after the persecutions had ceased.

Fr Teófilo saw it coming. He said: 'I have a premonition that I am going to die, and I am glad to die by firing squad. Our Lord suffered even more for us. It is the least we can offer Him.'

✦ *Silence* ✦

2. Professing until the end

Voice 2: Those brothers did not seek death: they sought Christ, to the point of making their own the attitudes, choices and tasks that led to his heart being pierced on the cross. When the hour came, they did not hide. Fr Isidro Íñiguez presented himself 'as a religious who took pride in being one, deeply satisfied with his profession'. The young Fr Mario Ros said he would never deny that he was a priest and a religious, even if they killed him. Fr Eladio replied: 'You know I am a priest; let them do with me as they please.'

The novitiate concludes with temporary profession, but the root of the vows goes deeper: it points to a total and irrevocable commitment to God, even in contexts that are highly hostile to the faith.

✦ *Silence* ✦

3. Communion with the Lord

Voice 1: The time of adoration, during which our lives are being restored and offered up, aims to make them a Eucharistic sacrifice. Fr Gonzalo Barrón, an apostle of night-time adoration in the home, was able to live out his martyrdom as the fulfilment of the Eucharist: it was no longer the sacrament that was being offered, but his very self as the host. This is what Jesus foreshadowed at the Last Supper.

Before the Blessed Sacrament, what part of my life do I wish to place on the altar today?

✦ *Silence* ✦

4. An unarmed and disarming peace

Voice 2: Their martyrdom did not arise from resentment or armed combat. They were men of peace. Faced with the violence of their persecutors, they responded with the meekness of the strong, armed only with the weapons of faith: a peace that Pope Leo calls 'unarmed and disarming', which overcomes evil with the superabundance of love from the Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

✦ *Silence* ✦

5. Swimming against the tide

Voice 1: The lesson is also for us, who do not live in a context of bloody martyrdom, but rather of swimming against the tide. Without seeking to blame others or harbouring resentment, we are called to be agents of communion in the world and to see how the martyr, through his suffering, transforms the story of death into a hymn to Life.

> *Where is the Lord asking me today to be an agent of communion? What does it cost me to offer him, and what am I afraid to say 'yes' to right to the end?*

✦ *Prolonged silence of personal adoration* ✦

VI SHARING PRAYERS AND INTENTIONS

An open period for each person to express aloud a brief thanksgiving or a petition. After each intention, everyone responds.

Leader: Let us present to the Lord, through the intercession of our blessed ones, the needs of the Church and the world.

Voice 1: For the Church, that it may bear witness to the peace of Christ: let us pray to the Lord.

All: Through the intercession of your martyrs, hear us, Lord.

Voice 2: For Christians persecuted today because of their faith, and for those who persecute them: let us pray to the Lord.

All: Through the intercession of your martyrs, hear us, Lord.

Voice 1: For the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts and for vocations to religious life: let us pray to the Lord.

All: Through the intercession of your martyrs, hear us, Lord.

Voice 2: For all those who suffer violence, war or hatred, that love may overcome evil: let us pray to the Lord.

All: Through the intercession of your martyrs, hear us, Lord.

Leader: Now, we may freely add our own petitions and thanksgivings.

Spontaneous prayer. After each intention: 'Through the intercession of your martyrs, hear us, Lord'.

VII THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: United as brothers and sisters, with the words that Jesus taught us, let us pray:

The Lord's Prayer

VIII PRAYER FOR THE MARTYRS

Leader: Let us pray.

Merciful God the Father, who granted the blessed Theophilus, Isidore, Gonzalo, Eladio and Mario to seal with their blood the vow they made before the Hearts of your Son and of Mary, grant us, through their intercession, to be faithful in the little things of each day, to live without resentment and to sow peace where there is division, so that our life, offered up with you, may be a hymn to Life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

IX BLESSING WITH THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tantum ergo.

Leader: You gave them the bread of heaven.

All: Which contains within itself every delight.

Leader: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, who in this marvellous sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, we ask you to grant that we may venerate the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood in such a way that we may constantly experience within ourselves the fruit of your redemption. You who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Blessing with the Blessed Sacrament in silence.

Leader: To the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

All: Now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessed Sacrament is reserved.

x SALVE REGINA

'Blessed Theophilus and companions, martyrs: pray for us"