

NOVEMBER 2009 FEAST DAYS

Sunday, November 1 — All Saints



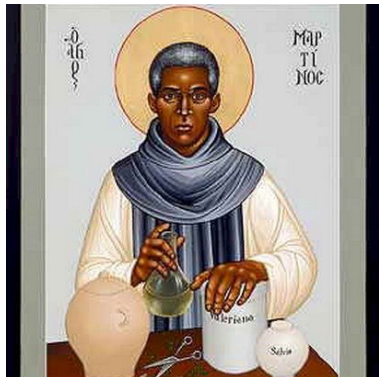
This feast honors all the saints of the church, known and unknown. The occasion allows us to reflect on the nature of holiness and to celebrate the exemplary faithfulness of holy men and women of every place and time, whose lives and deeds continue to inspire us.

Monday, November 2 — All the Faithful Departed



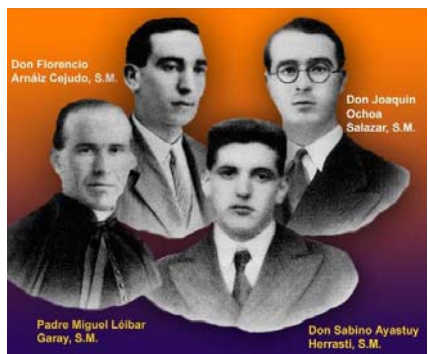
Since the early church, Christians have prayed for the dead. By the seventh century, some monastic foundations reserved this day to pray for deceased members and benefactors. While we remember the beloved dead of our families and friends on this day, let us also give thanks for our Marianist forebears, especially the deceased Marianist religious of this past year.

Tuesday, November 3 — Saint Martin de Porres



Martin de Porres was a Dominican lay brother from Lima, Peru. He humbly ministered to the poor and the sick, especially African slaves. His advice was sought by people in high places, and he was well-loved and greatly respected by the populace. Today he is a patron saint of social justice and of people of mixed race.

Friday, November 6 — Memorial of Blessed Miguel Léibar and Companion Martyrs



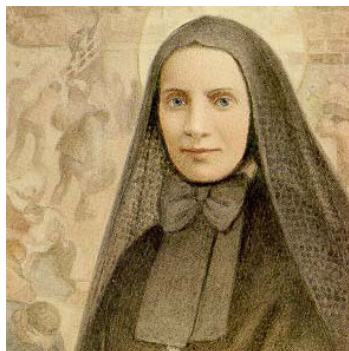
Father Miguel Léibar and Brothers Florencio Arnáiz, Sabino Ayastuy and Joaquín Ochoa were members of the Society of Mary in Spain, all dedicated teachers respected by colleagues and students. When the religious persecution broke out at the time of the Civil War in Spain, they hid in the homes of friends. Father Miguel was arrested on July 28, 1936, and shot by the revolutionary militia. Several weeks later, Brothers Florencio, Sabino and Joaquín were shot as well. They were beatified in 2007.

Monday, November 9 — Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome



Today is the anniversary of the dedication of the cathedral church of Rome by Pope Sylvester I in 324. It is called St. John Lateran because it was built on property owned by the Laterani family and given to the Church. As the *cathedra* (chair) of the bishop of Rome, it has a Latin inscription over its entrance, *The Mother and Head of All Church of the City and of the World*.

Friday, November 13 — Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini



Frances Xavier Cabrini was the youngest of 13 children from Lombardy, Italy. She founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. For 28 years she labored in the United States, establishing 67 institutions of service (schools, hospitals, orphanages) in the church. In 1946, she became the first U.S. citizen to be canonized. She is the patroness of immigrants and migrants.

Wednesday, November 18 — Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne



Born in Grenoble, France, Rose became a Religious of the Sacred Heart. She founded the first American house of the congregation and opened the first American free school west of the Mississippi. She was known for her courage and her deep desire to serve native Americans, especially the Patawotomi, who called her the “woman who prays always.” She died in 1852 at 83 in St. Charles, Missouri.

Saturday, November 21 — Presentation of the Blessed Virgin



Though it cannot be proven historically, Mary’s presentation has an important theological purpose. It emphasizes that the holiness conferred on Mary from the beginning of her life on earth continued through her early childhood and beyond.

Monday, November 23 — Blessed Miguel Pro, SJ



This Mexican Jesuit was martyred in 1927 during the religious persecution. Let us pray on this day for the growth and development of the Marianist District of Mexico.

Tuesday, November 24 — Saint Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions



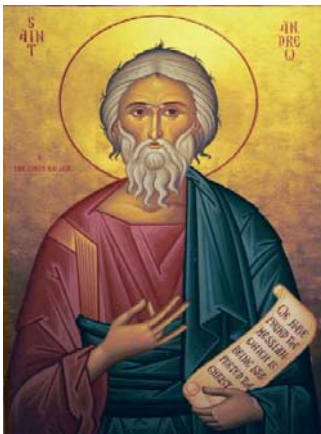
From the 17th to the 19th centuries in Vietnam, approximately 130,000 Christians suffered cruel martyrdom, many by decapitation or strangulation. Today, 117 of them are remembered, including religious, priests and lay people. They were canonized by Pope John Paul II in June 1988.

Thursday, November 26 — Thanksgiving Day



As we give thanks for the many blessings of God in our lives, let us pray for the blessings of the Marianist Family in our Province, especially for our newest members and for those discerning a Marianist vocation.

Monday, November 30 — Saint Andrew



Andrew came from Bethsaida in Galilee and was a fisherman like his father and his brother Simon. A disciple of John the Baptist, Andrew was present at Jesus' baptism. Andrew is known as the first disciple of Jesus. When Jesus chose his apostles, Andrew was among the Twelve. It is uncertain where Andrew preached or where he died. But ancient tradition associates him with Greece. He is the patron saint of Scotland and Russia, of the Greek church and of the fishing industry.