



Marianist Moments

Feast of Blesseds Carlos Eraña, SM,
Fidel Fuidio, SM, and Jesús Hita, SM.

September 18

~ Meeting aid ~



Introduction

On September 18, the Marianist Family celebrates the feast of Blessed Carlos Eraña, SM, Blessed Fidel Fuidio, SM, and Blessed Jesús Hita, SM, Marianist martyrs during the Spanish Civil War. During this war, fifteen Marianist religious were martyred. Of these, seven are beatified. The three Marianist religious, Carlos, Fidel, and Jesús, are known as the Marianist martyrs of Ciudad Real; they were martyred on different occasions during the year 1936. They were declared Blessed in the year 1995 by Pope John Paul II.

Prayer

Adapted from Prayers for Marianist Days and Feasts, marianist.com

✠ Eternal God, Blessed Carlos, Fidel, and Jesús, were filled with love and zeal for Christ and His mother, Mary. You gave them the grace to suffer for Christ and join him in holy martyrdom. Grant that, through their intercession, we may remain steadfast in our faith and love for Christ. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ 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

November Offering, Paul Landolfi, SM, marianist.com

Contemplate the following brief biographies of Blessed Carlos Eraña, Fidel Fuidio, and Jesús Hita, the martyrs of *Ciudad Real*.

Blessed Carlos Eraña was a teacher and a principal of the educational institutes he served. During the Spanish Civil War, he was taken prisoner and martyred on September 18, 1936. When applying for his religious vows, he wrote: *The service of God, the practice of love toward the Divine Model and Mary his most holy Mother, I want that these be the aims of my entire life.*

Blessed Fidel Fuidio, SM, held a doctorate in history and was a professor in many educational institutions. Blessed Fidel was esteemed among his contemporary archeologists, collectors, etc., in Spain. His scientific publications were notable during his time. When the Spanish soldiers discovered a religious crucifix on his breast, they arrested him and put him in prison. He was martyred on October 17, 1936. He never denied his religious vocation and often spoke about his giving his life for Christ, saying: *If it would be necessary that I sacrifice my life for the cause of religion and my country, I offer my head gladly for its triumph.*

Blessed Jesús Hita, SM, was in the diocesan seminary of his time, which he left to join as a priest in the Society of Mary. Though he was not admitted to the priesthood, he became an excellent teacher despite his stuttering. He became a professor at an educational institution. When the Spanish Civil War broke out, he was arrested and martyred on September 25, 1936. He often spoke of his motivation during this religious persecution, saying: *All my eagerness is to be useful. Being holy + being useful + self-giving, these three insights I hold so deeply in my soul that they come easily and quickly to my thoughts and lips.*

Group Sharing

How do the Spanish Marianist Martyrs of *Ciudad Real* inspire you in your faith and Marianist vocation?



(Image: Pencil Drawing of Spanish Martyrs by Don Smith, SM)

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