



Marianist Moments

Feast of Blessed Jakob Gapp, SM

August 13

~ Meeting aid ~



Introduction

Blessed Jakob Gapp was a professed Marianist priest from Austria who lived during World Wars I and II. He served as a teacher and chaplain and priest at several Marianist schools. During the Nazi persecution of World War II, Jakob Gapp resisted the nationalist socialism of his time and preached about its incompatibility with Christianity. The Gestapo followed Jakob Gapp's movements and secured the help of two individuals to gain his confidence, who then abducted him on a planned trip across the border of France. He was then taken as a prisoner to Berlin and condemned to death on July 2, 1943, the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Blessed Jakob Gapp is considered a martyr for the Catholic faith who preached: *"My ideal would be to pour out my blood for Christ and for the Church."*

Prayer

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

✝ Eternal God, you gave to Blessed Jakob the grace to proclaim your faith fearlessly and to assert, even to death, the truth of our faith. Grant us help through his intercession and example to remain true to your Son and the Church through the integrity of our lives. We pray for your peace, grace, and divine mercy to fill our world. We make this prayer through Jesus your Son. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 16: 24-26, RSVCE

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life?"

Silent Introspection

Marianist Martyr - Blessed Jakob Gapp, SM, 147-148

Contemplate the following letter from Blessed Jakob Gapp to his Marianist Superior, Fr. Franz-Josep Jung, on the day of his death, August 13, 1943.

Very Reverend and dear Fr. Superior,

I am compelled to write to you now, just a few hours before my death, in order to say good-bye. On July 2, the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, I was condemned to death for treason. The execution will take place this evening at seven o'clock.

During the time of my imprisonment, this is since November 9, last year, I have had ample opportunity to reflect on my life. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you have done for me during the time that I have known you. I consider myself as still belonging to the Society of Mary; I renew my vows and offer myself up through the hands of the Mother of heaven to our dear Lord. Please excuse any annoyances that I might have caused you. I have suffered difficulties, but now I am very happy. I think that I have become holier in this difficult time.

Give my best to all of our fellow-Brothers.; I will remember you to those who have already died. Everything passes, only heaven remains.

On August 13, 1920, I began my novitiate year, the best year of my life. And today I hope to begin the life of eternal happiness.

Best wishes! Pray for me! I will pray for you. Good-bye.

In J.M.J, Your grateful and devoted Jakob, RIP

Group Sharing

How does Blessed Jakob Gapp, SM, inspire you to keep your faith in Christ and be true to it by the witness of your life in the world today?



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