



Prayer in Vocation

Feast of Saint Miguel Febres Cordero (San Miguel) (February 9)

A School Prayer:

Today we celebrate the holy life of San Miguel, an Ecuadorian Brother who consecrated his life to the education of youth. Loving Creator, in San Miguel we are shown a way to love others, namely through providing an education. May we not only appreciate our own education but use our gifts in class and outside the school to help others learn what it means to be a gift given by God for the world. We pray through your Son, our brother Jesus. Amen.

A Classroom Prayer:

Jesus, challenges with our homework, and understanding classes can make us want to give up on learning. As we remember San Miguel and the physical and emotional challenges he overcame to be an exemplary educator and holy person, let us recall our own efforts to succeed. May we, like San Miguel continue to have faith enough in ourselves and others that we can learn and use our learning to help bring peace to our world. Amen.

A Prayer for Parents *(could be used in a newsletter):*

San Miguel met the challenge of being the first native vocation when the Brothers settled in Ecuador. Becoming a parent is a first also and as my children grow, each stage of their lives presents me with a slightly new person. May God's spirit of patience find a place in my ongoing dedication toward guiding my children's' unique journey into a life of rooted in faith, love, and hope. Amen.

The Story:

Francisco Febres Cordero was born into a family that had always been prominent in Ecuadorian politics. Crippled from birth, he had to overcome family opposition to realize his vocation to be a lay religious, the first native of Ecuador to be received into the Brothers. Brother Miguel was a gifted teacher from the start and a diligent student. When he was not quite twenty years old, he published the first of his many books, a Spanish grammar that soon became a standard text. In time his research and publications in the field of literature and linguistics put him in touch with scholars all over the world and he was granted membership in the National Academies of Ecuador and Spain. Despite high academic honors, teaching remained his first priority, especially his classes in religion and for the young men he prepared for first communion. His students admired his simplicity, his directness, his concern for them, and the intensity of his devotion to the Sacred Heart and the Virgin Mary. In 1907 he passed through New York on his way to Belgium, where he had been called to translate texts into Spanish for the use of the Brothers recently exiled from France. Transferred to the junior novitiate at Premia del Mar in Spain, during a revolutionary outbreak in 1909 he supervised a dramatic evacuation of his young charges to the safety of Barcelona across the bay. Shortly after they were able to return, he contracted pneumonia and he died at Premia, leaving behind a remarkable reputation as scholar, teacher, and saint.