



## *Prayer in Vocation*

**Feast of the Blessed Brother Martyrs of Almería (Nov. 16)**

### **A School Prayer:**

Through the example of the Blessed Brother Martyrs of Almería, we are shown lives of faith and meaning. Loving Creator, you call us to look beyond selfish interests. May we see your face in each other today, and support what is right and good, so that in our day we come to hear you, to see you, and to become your hands in the world. We pray through your Son, our brother Jesus. Amen.

### **A Classroom Prayer:**

Jesus welcomed all and was thankful for the people who came into his life. May we, like the Blessed Brother Martyrs of Almería, be the welcoming heart and hand of sacrifice for others. May we be the cause for thanksgiving in one another's life. Amen.

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

The Blessed Brother Martyrs of Almería stayed true to the values of faith in God through their service to the children entrusted to their care. May we too keep focused on our responsibilities as parents to love our children and direct them toward lives of faith and service. May we seek and find support from our family and extended communities, especially as we balance the raising of children, supporting a home, and deepening our understanding of how God continues to call us in our own development. May we be encouraged in our efforts to be persons of loving sacrifice. Amen.

### **The Story:**

So quickly can the peace and justice of a quiet town be uprooted in discontent and war. Shortly after the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War in 1936, the Popular Front in the Province of Almería gave orders to arrest all enemies of the revolution, especially priests and religious. Five of the Brothers were arrested at their school, two were taken prisoner in the street while on their way to mail letters to their families. Along with many others, including two bishops, these prisoners were confined in a series of makeshift prisons, where they were subjected to privation, mistreatment and ridicule. On the night of August 29, the two bishops, along with 15 others, were taken to an isolated spot where they were lined up and shot. On the next night, August 30, Brothers Edmigio, Amalio, and Valerio were taken to the outskirts of Tabernas, where they were shot in the head and their bodies thrown into a deep well. On September 8, Brothers Evencio and Teodomiro were shot near the roadside, where their bodies were left. Brothers Aurelio and José met a similar fate on September 12, their bodies also thrown into a well. Bishops and Brothers alike were condemned to death without trial for the crime of professing and teaching the Catholic faith.