



## *Prayer in Vocation*

### **Feast of the Blessed Martyrs of Valencia (Sept. 22)**

#### **A School Prayer:**

Loving Creator, throughout history, men and women stand by their faith in you and in their purpose in life, even to the point of persecution and death.

Today, in remembering the five Brother martyrs of Spain who were killed for keeping faithful to their call of educating youth, help us to stand up for the call you speak to our hearts.

We pray through your Son, our brother Jesus. Amen.

#### **A Classroom Prayer:**

Learning is often not easy, especially when what we learn calls us toward actions of justice and peace that are not acceptable to the climate of violent times. In the example of our Blessed Brother Martyrs of Spain, may we stay true to the call of God in our lives, even at times that call us to stand up for what is right and for the good of people. Amen.

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

The five Blessed Brothers Martyred in Valencia, Spain in 1936 died in the faith that strengthened their resolve to teach young people the peaceful ways of God amidst the turmoil of civil war. May we, as parents, foster in our children a sense and practice of bringing peace to the troubles in our lives and world. May they be true to their call to holiness and may their actions reflect the goodness of a family that works things out for the sake of all. Amen.

#### **The Story:**

Of the 233 martyrs of the diocese of Valencia that were beatified in March 2001, five were Brothers of the Christian Schools. Their only concern was to follow Jesus in the vocation to which he had called them: to gain salvation by educating young people, teaching them to live as Christians.

When religious persecution began in Spain, they were working peacefully in the educational institutions in the Lasallian District of Barcelona. Because of the religious persecution there, they fled to Valencia in order to continue their ministry of education. It was in Valencia that the Lord called them to a radical witness. When they were found to be religious, they were arrested and executed.

Martyrs are a sign of the Church, the Body of Christ, which continues being persecuted and condemned to death in her members, but these martyrs kept their sights fixed on the glorious dawn of the resurrection.

This is the lesson that the Martyrs give to us, yesterday and today. We should be ready to imitate their generosity. Young person, teacher, Lasallian partner, parent, this message invites us also to devote our lives to the Kingdom, based on our chosen lifestyles and the professional activities we carry out. The cause of the Kingdom compels our lives to acquire the religious dimension which is a source for happiness and continued strength, even when facing life's most difficult tests.