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THE BROTHERS WHO WERE MARTYRED

IN TURON, SPAIN

on the 9th October 1934

On the 9th December, 1988 the Theological Commission studying the cause of these brothers unanimously approved their martyrdom. Although there are still some stages to be gone through before the process is concluded, this is a definite step in the direction of the beatification of these nine martyrs, (eight brothers and a Passionist priest). There follows a short summary of each of their lives.

Brother CIRILO BERTRAN José Sanz Tejedor

He was born in Lerma, in the diocese and province of Burgos on the 20th March, 1888. He went to Bujedo in 1906 at the age of 18. He began his novitiate in Bujedo on the 4th March, 1907. He made his first religious vows on the 31st August, 1909 and his final vows on the 31st July, 1916. He taught in 13 different schools of the congregation and was director in five of them. He had been in Turón from 1933.

From his novitiate days his character was serious and reflective. He did not say much, was wise in the way he judged things and very affable in communicating with people. When he was a superior his wisdom and good judgment became apparent as well as his kindness in administration.

From material collected for his canonisation cause we can select the following from one witness: "He showed his love of God and of others by his zeal for souls. He prepared his lessons, especially his religious lessons with great care. With equal care he prepared the reflection that every brother has to give his students every morning". Some brothers who had lived with him had this to say, when they heard of his martyrdom: "We are not surprised; he was worthy of martyrdom and was made of the stuff of martyrs".

Brother MARCIANO JOSE Filomeno López López

He was born on the 15th November, 1900 in El Pedregal, diocese of Sigüenza and Province of Guadalajara. He began his novitiate on the 20th September, 1916. He made his first vows on the 9th July, 1919 and his final profession on the 9th July, 1925. He was intelligent and could have taught, but when he was at Bujedo, he became

deaf, so he had to take up manual work, and whilst doing that kind of work he showed a great affection for his vocation.

He had been in Turón six months when he died. One of the witnesses for his cause says: "He carried his cross with patience and love, and served his community, that is to say his congregation, with generosity".

Brother JULIAN ALFREDO Vilfrido Fernández Zapico

He was born in Cifuentes de Rueda, province of León on the 24th December, 1902. Some people assure us that he was preparing himself to join the Capuchins, but had to give up the idea through ill health. He entered the novitiate of Bujedo on the 4th February, 1926. He made his first vows on the 15th August, 1927 and his final vows on the 17th August, 1932. From August 1929 until 1933 he was in the school of Caborana, very near Turón. He had been in the latter community only one year when he died. One witness says of him: "He always approached Our Lord when he had difficulties, and admitted that he always felt much better when he had talked with the prisoner of the tabernacle".

The following are some of his words: "Persecution has managed to unite me all the more with God through doing my duty, and has made this present world seem wretched, for there is only misery in it". "I am the Guardian Angel of my students and I must never lose sight of them". On more than one occasion he exclaimed: "If only I had the luck to become a martyr".

Brother VICTORINO PIO Claudio Bernabé Cano

He was born in San Millán de Lara, in the province and diocese of Burgos on the 7th July, 1905. He went to Bujedo on the 26 August, 1919. He moved on to the novitiate on the 30th August, 1921, made his first vows on the 2nd February, 1922 and his final profession on 22nd August, 1930. He taught in Palencia from 1925 to 1934, except for a short time, when he was in La Santa Espina. He had been in Turón only 23 days when he died.

He was an excellent educator, a well organised and gifted teacher. His Brother Visitor testified for him as follows: "He loved his students very much, and had a remarkable enthusiasm for teaching."

He had a great devotion to Our Lady. He foresaw that he would die soon and told a friend of his so: a few weeks later in fact he died.

Brother BENJAMIN JULIAN
Vicente Alonso Andrés

He was born in Jaramillo de la Fuente in the province and diocese of Burgos on the 27th October, 1908. He went to Bujedo on the 1st September, 1920. On the 2nd February, 1924 he began his novitiate, making his first vows on 15th May, 1926 and final profession 30th August, 1933. That same year he was assigned to Turón, after teaching for five years in Santiago de Compostela.

He was a jovial and affectionate man. One of the witnesses said: "He was obedient, hard working and loved the Catholic church very much." Another witness: "He loved his vocation so much and was so joyful and happy in it, that he was ready to go wherever obedience sent him, as he used to say: "even to Peking if necessary". His father confessor has this to say: "I cherish the hope that one day I shall see him numbered among the martyrs, for he was killed for the Faith and for the teaching of Christ, which he, with apostolic fervour, passed on to his students. That is why God has rewarded him with the palm of martyrdom".

Brother AUGUSTO ANDRES
Román Martín Fernández

He was born in Santander on the 6th May, 1910. He was a student in the brothers' school, but in order to follow his vocation he had to convince his widowed mother, who did not like the idea. He became very ill, and the doctors gave up hope of saving his life. His fellow students made a novena to St Teresa of the Child Jesus, he got better and his mother offered no further opposition to his vocation.

He joined Bujedo on the 8th August, 1922, began his novitiate on the 3th February, 1926 and made his first vows on the 15th August, 1927. He was not old enough to make his final vows. He was assigned to Turón in September, 1933, after teaching for two years in the school at Valladolid and another two in Palencia. In spite of his youth, he was a masterly teacher. At his cause the following facts were testified about him: "He had to struggle to save his vocation against his mother's insistence that he should return home."

Brother BENITO DE JESUS
Héctor Valdivieso Sáez

He was born in Buenos Aires in Argentina on the 31st October, 1910 of Spanish parents. Having returned to Spain with his mother and brothers and sisters, he entered Bujedo, and stayed there two years. He then went to make his novitiate in Lembecq-lez-Hal, in Belgium on the 7th August, 1926. He took the religious habit on the 7th October, 1926 and made his vows on the 7th October, 1927. He did not reach the age to make final profession. Although he planned to go on the missions, he began his apostolate in Astorga,

stayed there four years and then went to Turón in 1933.

Witnesses have said of him: "His enthusiasm for the Holy Eucharist and for the apostolate were remarkable". In a letter to his mother he said: "If the government expells us, I shall come to pass a few days with you, then I shall go to South America or France or anywhere else they send me. My main wish is to remain what I am, a Brother of the Christian Schools". To his father, who was in Mexico, he wrote: "Try to be brave under persecution, and if God gives you the grace of martyrdom, know that I, your son, will be envious of you."

Brother ANICETO ADOLFO
Manuel Seco Gutiérrez

He was born in Celada Marlantes in the province and diocese of Santander on the 1st October, 1912. He became a junior novice in Bujedo at the age of twelve. On the 6th September, 1926 he became a novice and made his first vows on the 2nd February, 1930. He had only two years of teaching, one in the school in Valladolid and the other in Turón. Two of his brothers also joined our congregation, and he wrote to them as follows: "Dear Brother, I am writing to you to say how anxious I am for your dedication to God to be complete and for always." "Dear Brother, Let us persevere in our vocation not half-heartedly, but like real soldiers of our General Jesus."

Two of his brothers testified as follows: "He performed his religious duties exactly". "His great interest was for his students, whom he wanted to make into angels".

Father INOCENCIO DE LA INMACULADA
Manuel Canoure Arnau

He was born in Santa Cecilia del Valle de Oro, Lugo. He entered the Passionist novitiate at Deusto on the 25th July, 1904. He made his first vows on the 27th July, 1905. He was ordained priest on the 20th September, 1913. He taught Philosophy and Theology in different places: Daimiel, Mondoñedo, Mieres. He performed his pastoral work in several parishes especially in Santander. From there he was transferred to Mieres one month before his death. He was in the school of the brothers in Turón when he was captured. He had gone there to hear the confessions of the students, and had remained to talk to them at Mass the following day.

Concerning him one of the witnesses said: "As a priest he was very active, very religious and completely dedicated to the apostolate".

Extracts from the documents of the Postulator for their causes.

Br. J.M.V.