

**THE BROTHER MARTYRS  
OF ALMERIA**

(1/3)

**1/a – THE BROTHERS:  
WITNESSES OF CHRIST,  
APOSTLES OF THE SCHOOL**

**Brother Jose Maria Valladolid**

In october 10th 1993 seven Brothers martyred during the Spanish civil war will be beatified. In this and the next sheet you will find their outline biographies and comments by friends. For the background cf. 27-10-B-127 in this folder.

**Brother Aurelio Maria  
(Bienvenido Villalon Acebron)**

Zafra de Zancara, province and diocese of Cuenca, was his birthplace, the date being 22nd March 1890, his parents Cecilio and Marcelina. Christening: Assumption Church, 24th March; confirmation, 12th May 1895.

His parents died early, so his brother Eustasio and an aunt looked after him.

On 15th May 1903, he joined the Bujedo Juniorate. Having entered the novitiate on 19th June 1906, he received the habit on 22nd August. Perpetual vows: Madrid, 24 July 1918.

Next came his studies and the following assignments: 1st September 1908, Lorca; Gijon, 1910; Maravillas, in Madrid, 1915; Melilla, 1927, as subdirector. After a year's second novitiate in Lembecq, near Brussels, he was appointed director of St. Michael's in Cadiz, his final appointment being director of San José in Almeria, 1933.

The 12th September 1936, he was martyred with Brother José Cecilio outside Tabernas in a place named "Venta de los Yesos" (Chalk Inn) or "Contraviesa", his body being thrown into an abandoned well called "Tahal".

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*He was a very stable, open character. At Maravillas, he had the reputation of being an excellent teacher. His keenness for his students' eternal good was seen in his catechism lessons, his little talks, his care for what belonged to the students, thus avoiding undesirable literature being seen around. When he learned of the martyrdom of the Brothers in Turon he wrote: "It would be a great honour for us to shed our blood for Christian education. If we redouble our efforts for education, we also may perhaps have that honour."*

*I always had the impression that he was a first-rate religious, straight-forward, an excellent example in community. He was an enthusiastic educator, very dignified, self-effacing, unpretentious. He had great religious influence on his students. He put himself out for his Brothers in Community, was prayerful but not showy in his piety. He kept his vows and the Rule in an exemplary manner.*

*He had plenty of common sense, took his vocation seriously, accomplished his religious duties in view of the good of souls.*

*He was an absolute gentleman, treating all he met with consideration.*

*You only had to see him at prayer to be encouraged to do the same. I was particularly struck by the way he said grace at meals.*

**Brother José Cecilio  
(Bonifacio Rodriguez Gonzalez)**

The birthday, place and parents of this martyr were respectively, 14th May 1885, La Molina de Ubierna, Primitivo and Isabel. The day of his birth, he was christened in Saint Roman the Abbot's Church. His confirmation day was 22nd May 1886, in the town of Burgos.

When Bonifacio was four, the family moved to Bilbao, hence it was that he became a pupil at the Brothers' school of Iturrubide. Two older brothers of his became De La Salle Brothers. Juniorate, Bujedo: 4th May 1899; novitiate: 21st October 1901, receiving the habit and religious name on 21st November; final vows at Gijon: 12th August 1913.

With studies over, he went to Los Corrales in 1903, Isla (1904), Deusto (1906), Bilbao (1907), Madrid, Maravillas (1908), Puebla de Vives (1910), Sacred Heart, Madrid (1922). He was infirmarian in Maravillas from 1930, where he saw the school building burnt down by revolutionaries. He then went to Sacred Heart school, where he was told to save what he could from the ruins of the fire and take it to Griñon. In 1935, he was appointed to oversee the building of the new edifice at Almeria.

He was martyred for his beliefs on the night of 12th September 1936, in a place called "The Chalk Inn" (Venta de los Yesos) or "Contraviesa" on the outskirts of Tabernas, together with his Director, Aurelio Maria. His body was thrown into a dried-up well called "Tahal".

*He was always an obedient, prayerful religious, forgetful of himself, when it came to helping people and doing work in the various houses he lived in.*

*He was a reliable man who kept calm, was enthusiastic about spreading the Gospel, always glad to offer a service.*

*He really put himself out for his students, which was much appreciated by them and their families.*

*He worked hard at giving excellent lessons, especially in religion.*

*You could not fault him in the way he performed his religious and professional duty.*

**Brother Edmigio  
(Isidoro Primo Rogríguez)**

Born in Adalia, province of Valladolid and diocese of Palencia, on 4th April 1881, son of Mariano and Leandra, he was baptised on 10th April, in the parish church of Saint Eulalia and our Saviour, and confirmed on 2nd July 1893.

When his father died Isidoro was seven. His mother managed to get him a place in the Brothers' boarding school of La Santa Espina (the Sacred Thorn), where he realised he wanted to be a Brother. He therefore went to the Novitiate of Bujedo on 3rd August, taking the religious habit and the name Edmigio on 8th October 1898. Once he had made his vows, he began his studies on 9th October 1899. In 1906 he obtained the diploma of master, the following year, making his final vows on 11th August 1911.

He taught in Cobreces, Santander (1901), going from there to Madrid, first to the Beneficencia Centre (1903), then to the Sacred Heart Orphanage (1906), and finally to Colegio Maravillas (1908). His next move was in 1915 to Melilla, where he taught the top class of the secondary school. From there, he moved to Cuevas in 1931; it being in 1933 that he reached San José school in Almeria.

He was martyred on the night of 30th August 1936 near the well called "The Lizard" (La Lagarta) in Tabernas, with Brothers Amalio and Valerio Bernardo.

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*At "Santo Espina" he was a fine example to the other pupils. Later on, as a religious, he loved to study, was a gifted and excellent educator of children and youth, in fact he had tremendous influence.*

*He was a prayerful, sensible and hardworking religious, taking on all kinds of hard jobs as a teacher.*

*His prayerfulness without fuss was clear to all; he would often, in a spare moment, visit the Blessed Sacrament or make the Way of the Cross.*

*He was very devoted to Our Lady, attempting to inspire the same devotion in his students, and even to certain Brothers who, in his opinion, needed to increase that devotion to help them to remain Brothers.*

*He was a great help to younger Brothers, being their counsellor and a kind of Guardian Angel when they were discouraged.*

*He taught catechism in a friendly, attractive manner, was always to the point, practical and encouraging. ●*