

December 4

**Blesseds Pius Heredia Zubía, priest,  
and companions, martyrs**

Common of several martyrs.

COLLECT

God our Father,  
through the help of the Mother of God,  
you have conformed the blessed martyrs  
Pius and his companions to the image of Christ  
even to the shedding of their blood;  
grant we beseech you that through their example  
and intercession we may be strengthened to profess  
our faith by words and deeds.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
your Son who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit one God for ever and ever.

December 4

**Blesseds Pius Heredia Zubia, priest  
and companions, martyrs**

The Blesseds Pius Heredia Zubia, prior, and his fifteen companion of the monastery of «Santa María Viaceli» (Santander), and Blesseds María Micaela Baldoví Trull, abbess, and María Natividad Medes Ferrís, nuns of the monastery «Fons Salutis» in Algemés (Valencia), contemplating Christ, who is true wisdom, learned to love him valiantly to the point of giving the supreme witness of faith by shedding their very blood, in various places and dates, during the religious persecution against the Church in Spain in 1936.

Common of several martyrs.

**Office of Readings**

SECOND READING

From the letters of Blessed Pius, priest and martyr.

*(Spirituals letters. 77. Burgos 1956)*

*Holiness—being conformed to Jesus Christ*

We should recognize that holiness consists in being conformed to Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father. Saint Paul assures us of this when he says: *Those whom God has called according to his purpose are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son.* Since his most holy Son made man practiced all the works of perfect holiness during his mortal life, there is no single human creature capable of imitating all of them. However, in the life of Jesus as presented to us in the Gospels, we find all the rich variety of human existence: joy and pain, action and rest, sadness and joy, effort and discouragement, all of which, experienced by Christ our Head, now passes on, to continue in his members.

This is the mission, which is in no way inferior to the truly divine dignity of the Church: to be the continuation and faithful reproduction of Jesus throughout the ages, despite all our human shortcomings. This is the mystical Christ, or rather, the mysterious hidden Christ in the depths of souls, who radiates outwards, so that the Father, in contemplating the Church, can repeat what he said on Mount Tabor: *This is my Son, the Beloved, my favor rests on him.*

Given this basic truth concerning our incorporation into Christ with whom, on the supernatural level, we form one moral or mystical Body, the Church, with Christ as the Head, Mary as neck, and each of the faithful as members—given, I say, this incorporation, all the good works we perform on this supernatural level under the guidance of our divine Head, are quite simply imitations, or if you prefer, expansions and prolongations of the same good works of Jesus, who perpetuates himself across time and space, working now through the members that which twenty centuries ago he began in himself and through himself, as head of the mystical body.

Since suffering is experienced in the life of the Church just as it is in all human life, Jesus has chosen to dignify it and in a certain sense, to give it a divine quality. This he accomplishes first of all in himself, making suffering the instrument of the Redemption of humanity, and then in his members, by making it serve as the means for applying the fruits of Redemption to individual souls. The Apostle makes this quite clear when he declares: *With my sufferings I make up whatever is lacking in the passion of Christ for the sake for his Body, the Church.*

This is the reason for the suffering, which would otherwise be inexplicable, of so many good people who sincerely seek God and live only for Him. It is clear that Jesus Christ continues to suffer and to offer to the Father his life as a Victim, accepting from his hand the *chalice the Father has given me*. Now, however, he does so through his mystical members who, in order for him to continue sacrificing himself, have been united to him in the closest way possible, by sharing his very life and divine sonship.

#### RESPONSORY

Rev 7, 13.14 , Eccl 44, 15

**R/.** These people dressed in white robes are they who have been through the great tribulation. \* They have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.

**V/.** The peoples will proclaim their wisdom, the assembly will celebrate their praises. \* They have.

#### Prayer

God our Father, through the help of the Mother of God, you have conformed the blessed martyrs Pius and his companions to the image of Christ even to the shedding of their blood; grant we beseech you that through their example and intercession we may be strengthened to profess our faith by words and deeds. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God for ever and ever.