

AUGUST 25

Blessed Methodius Dominíc Trčka, Martyr

Memorial

BLESSED METHODIUS WAS BORN IN FRYDLANT, MORAVIA (now the Czech Republic) on July 6, 1886. He joined the Redemptorists in 1902 and made his profession August 25, 1904. He was ordained in Prague on July 17, 1910. He spent the early years of his ministry as a parish missionary. His desire to work among the Greek Catholics was blessed by his superiors. With this in mind he was sent to Lviv, where he learned Ukrainian and Old Slavonic along with the Byzantine Rite. After a brief period of inculturation, he worked among the Greek Catholics in the area of Halic, in Galizia, and then in East Slovakia in the Eparchy of Prešov, where he carried on intense missionary activity. He was nominated first Vice-Provincial of the Vice-province of Michalovce in 1946. He began to work zealously to found new houses and to form young Redemptorists. On the night of April 13 and 14, 1950, all religious communities were suppressed by the Czech government. Father Methodius was arrested, tortured and condemned to twelve years imprisonment. In 1958 he was transferred to the prison of Leopoldov. He was suffering from pneumonia contracted during solitary confinement, which was imposed on him for singing a Christmas carol. As a result of those harsh conditions, he contracted tuberculosis. He died on March 23, 1959. He was first interred in the prison cemetery, and then in 1969 his remains were transferred to the Redemptorist plot in the cemetery of Michalovce. Pope John Paul II proclaimed him to be Blessed Dominic Methodius on November 4, 2001.

Entrance Antiphon The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.
He is their helper in time of trial (Ps 36:39).

OPENING PRAYER

Lord our God,
you gave to Blessed Methodius, your priest and martyr,
outstanding bravery in the face of trials and torture.
With the help of his prayers,
may we remain faithful to the Gospel of truth,
and with him come to contemplate your face for all eternity.
We make this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

1 Peter 4:12-19

Rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings.

A reading from the First Letter of Peter

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief maker. Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?" Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 126)

R. Those who sow in tears will reap in joy.

When the Lord delivered Sion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.

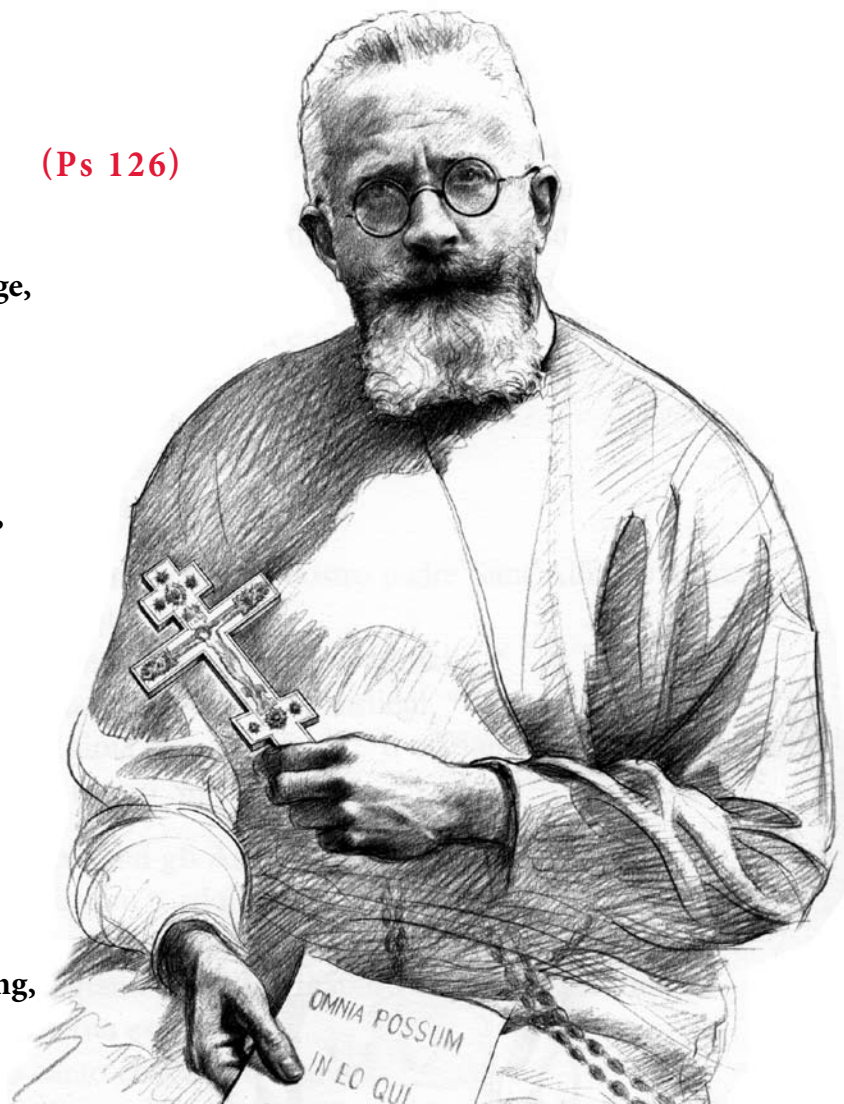
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. **R.**

The heathens themselves said,
"What marvels the Lord worked for them!"
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. **R.**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. **R.**

They go out, they go out full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
They come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. **R.**



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Mt 10:32)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others,” says the Lord,
“I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven.”

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 10:28-33

Do not fear those who kill the body.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time, Jesus said to his disciples: “Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Receive our sacrifice, Lord,
in memory of your blessed martyr Methodius Dominic
whom no trial could separate from the Body of your Church.
We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**Father, all powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.**

**Your holy martyr, Methodius Dominic,
followed the example of Christ,
and gave his life for the glory of your name.
His death reveals your power
shining through our human weakness.
You choose the weak to make them strong
in bearing witness to you
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
In our unending joy we echo on earth
the song of the angels in heaven
as they praise your glory for ever:**

Communion Antiphon If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves,
and take up their cross and follow me, says the Lord (Mt 16:24).

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**God our Father, you renew your church through these holy mysteries.
Enable us to imitate the fortitude
of Blessed Methodius Dominic
and so obtain the prize promised to those
who suffer for the sake of your name.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**