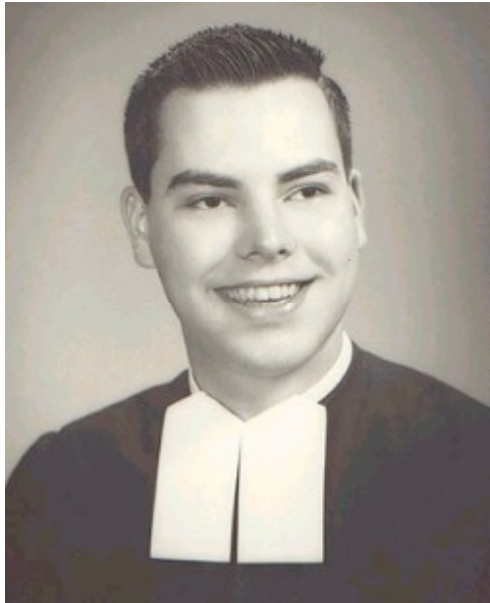


CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF BROTHER JAMES MILLER, FSC



1944 – 1982

A Christian educator, an apostle of the poor
and underprivileged,
A worker for justice and social change.

My life is for the Gospel.
Jesus, my life is for You.



PRESENCE OF GOD

"God is not far from any of us, since we do not
have life or movement or being
except in God." (Acts 17:28)

Let us remember that we are always and
everywhere in His holy presence.

In the name of God our Creator, and in the name of Jesus our Brother and
Redeemer, and in the name of the Spirit most holy Who is our Animator.
Amen.

A PRAYER AND HYMN FOR SAINTS AND MARTYRS

O Almighty and Heavenly Father, we give thanks to You for
the sending of Your Beloved Son, to die for our salvation; we
pray that You give us strength to follow His example in our
lives.

Lord, may we also receive encouragement by those faithful
servants who have gone before us, and we also continually
give thanks to You, O Father, for keeping them faithful, even
faithful unto death; we beg You to grant us a full measure of
Your Spirit that we may follow the example of those whose
faith never wavered, so that we too may finally obtain the
victory; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord. Amen.

Behold the blood of Saints and Martyrs –
That is spilled on sand, and soils the ground.

These are the faithful and the conquerors
And in their death in Christ are found.

Let not great fear our faith becloud,
For, lo, their blood cries out to God.

Be not dismayed by man's oppression
Even when it comes with wrath and toil
For Christ has given us great salvation –
This never can taint the earth's rich soil –
Men take only earthly life,
But never can seize our crown of life.



**So firmly cling, O Lord, unto me
And never let evil prosper here.
I'm firmly planted in Your mercy,
Which bids me live not in fear –Your Word and Sacraments sustain
Until I my heavenly crown obtain.**

HYMN: I SAY "YES," LORD

**1. To the God who cannot die: I say "Yes," my Lord.
To the one who hears me cry: I say "Yes," my Lord.
To the God of the oppressed: I say "Yes," my Lord.
To the God of all justice: I say "Yes," my Lord.**

**Refrain: I say "Yes," my Lord,
in all the good times, through all the bad times.
I say "Yes," my Lord,
to ev'ry word you speak.**

**2. I am a servant of the Lord: I say "Yes," my Lord.
I'm a worker in the fields: I say "Yes," my Lord.
I'm a prisoner of their wars: I say "Yes," my Lord.
Like a politician, inevitably: I say "Yes," my Lord.**

**3. For the dream I have today: I say "Yes," my Lord.
To be a healer of all pain: I say "Yes," my Lord.
To come to love my enemies: I say "Yes," my Lord.
For your peace in all the world: I say "Yes," my Lord.**

**4. Like that of Job, unceasingly: I say "Yes," my Lord.
Like that of Maria wholeheartedly: I say "Yes," my Lord.
Like that of David in a song: I say "Yes," my Lord.
Like Israel, for you I long: I say "yes," my Lord.**

Donna Peña

PRAYER BEFORE THE SCRIPTURE READING

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**



SCRIPTURE READING

2 CORINTHIANS 1: 3-7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and God of all encouragement, Who encourages us in our every affliction, so that we may be able to encourage those who are in any affliction with the encouragement with which we ourselves are encouraged by God. For as Christ's sufferings overflow to us, so through Christ does our encouragement also overflow. If we are afflicted, it is for your encouragement and salvation; if we are encouraged, it is for your encouragement, which enables you to endure the same sufferings that we suffer.

JOHN 12: 24 – 26

Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves Me must follow Me, and where I am, there also will My servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves Me.

REFLECTION

**Friends in Christ, grace and peace from the God of our planting and rising.
Amen.**

This Gospel is so gentle, we might miss its absoluteness.

This quiet, simple appreciation of seed stirs memories of the Gospel's picture of dying and rising,

This Gospel is so absolute, we might miss its gentleness.

Unless a grain of wheat dies...

We talk about relinquishment, but this speaks of absolute relinquishment ... and we are uncomfortable with absolutes.

With gentle absoluteness and absolute gentleness, the Gospel offers the truth: Unless we are grown, we do not live. Unless we die, we cannot bear fruit.

If we want to be fruitful, we want to support and be supported, to share the pain, to know and be known in the utter ultimatums of life and death. We want to, but in the face of death's utter finality, our faces sometimes turn, our words diminish, and our feet may be paralyzed. We want to be given over to the good work; but if the fear or pain of letting go stops us, the Gospel knows already, we remain alone. Let us couple our efforts to those of Christ.

PSALM 116

- 1. I love the Lord, Who listened to my voice in supplication,**
 - 2. Who turned an ear to me on the day I called.**
 - 1. I was caught by the cords of death;
the snares of hell had seized me;
I felt agony and dread.**
 - 2. Then I called on the name of the Lord, "O Lord, save my life!"**
 - 1. Gracious is the Lord and just; yes, our God is merciful.**
 - 2. The Lord protects the simple; I was helpless, but God saved me.**
- All: Return, my soul, to your rest; the Lord has been good to you.
For my soul has been freed from death, my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling.
I shall walk before the Lord in the land of the living.**

**'I see in Brother James' death the witness of Christ's love,
a witness to the dignity of the human person
and the right to freedom and justice
that should be all of ours...**

**Today we need to take a stand on the rights, especially of the poor.
Thank God that there are people like Brother James to do that."**

**Bishop Frederick Freking
Late Bishop of La Crosse, Wisconsin
February 18, 1982**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Response: Hear us, we pray.

For all who suffer from oppression and injustice...

For all who work to alleviate the hardships of others...

**For a greater awareness of our own abundance and a willingness to share
with our brothers and sisters...**

For those who are not afraid to stand up for God's poor...

**For us that we may never grow callous to the plight of the poor and
oppressed...**

For greater love and understanding among all peoples...

For an increase of vocations to the Gospel ministry...

**For our Lasallian Family that we will always be present to the poor among
us...**

**For Brother James Miller and all those who have given their lives for justice
that they may inspire us to work more diligently for the poor...**

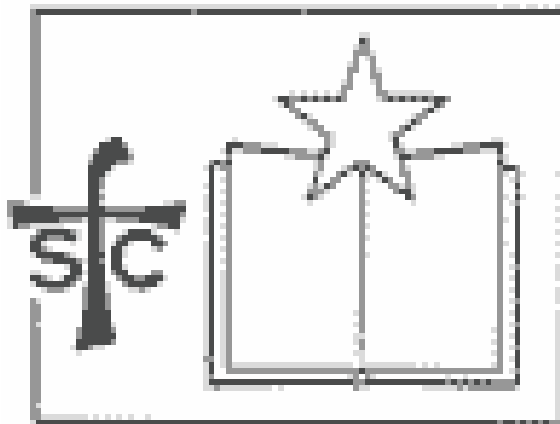
THE SHAKERTOWN PLEDGE

Recognizing that the earth and the fullness thereof is a gift from our gracious God, and that we are called to cherish, nurture, and provide loving stewardship for the earth's resources.

And recognizing that life itself is a gift, and a call to responsibility, joy and celebration. I make the following declaration:

- * I declare myself to be a World Citizen
- * I commit myself to lead an ecologically sound life
- * I commit myself to lead a life of creative simplicity and to share my personal wealth with the world's poor
- * I commit myself to join with others in reshaping institutions in order to bring about a more just global society, in which each person has full access to the needed resources for their physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual growth.
- * I commit myself to occupational accountability, and in so doing; I will seek to avoid the creation of products which cause harm to others
- * I affirm the gift of my body, and commit myself to its proper nourishment and physical well-being
- * I commit myself to examine continually my relations with others, and to attempt to relate honestly, morally, and lovingly to those around me
- * I commit myself to personal renewal through prayer, meditation, and study
- * I commit myself to responsible participation in a community of faith

Shakertown Pledge originated when a group of religious retreat center directors gathered at the site of a restored Shaker village near Harrodsburg, Kentucky. A number of them were personally moved by the global poverty-ecology crisis they saw all around them, and they covenanted together to reduce our levels of consumption, to share personal wealth with the world's poor, and to work for a new social order in which all people have equal access to the resources they need.



HYMN: HARVEST OF JUSTICE

**Refrain: May we find richness in the harvest of justice
Which Christ Jesus has ripened for us.
Bread for the journey, bread for the hungry,
All for the glory and praise of God.**

**Gather with patience for those who have nothing.
Leave them your riches, and you will receive.
Make room for the poor ones, make way for the stranger;
For I am the Lord, the Lord your God. Refrain**

**For to have mercy on those forgotten,
This is my true law, this is My command;
Clothe the naked, be home for the orphan,
Be hope for the widow, and welcome the lost. Refrain**

**For to have little is to be in abundance.
To give what remains, to give all we have
Is to walk with the poor ones, and become the stranger,
One with the Lord, the Lord our God. Refrain**

David Haas



**Brother James Miller and all you holy men and women of God
who have given your lives for justice for the oppressed,
inspire in us a great love to do likewise.**

**Saint John Baptist de La Salle
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
instill in us a complete dedication to the work of raising up the poor among
us.**

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!

**“Your zeal must go so far in this teaching God’s love that in
order to achieve it, you are ready to give your very life, so
dear to you are the children entrusted to you.”**

Meditation 198.2