

Remembering Saintly Brother Miguel Cordero, FSC

*The scholarly holy Brother
who made his teaching and writing so clear and accurate
that God's truth shone through.*

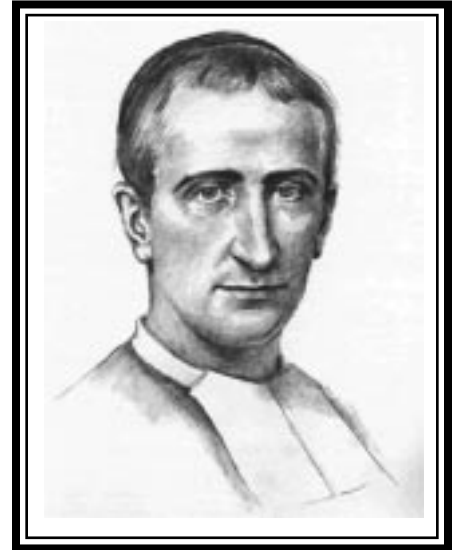
Born: 1854 in Cuenca, Ecuador

Entered the Brothers: 1868

Died: 1910

Canonized: 1984

Feast: February 9



Crippled at birth, he had to overcome family opposition to realize his vocation as a De La Salle Christian Brother. When he was not quite twenty years old, he published the first of many books, a Spanish grammar that soon became a standard text.

Despite high academic honors and membership in the National Academies of Ecuador, Spain, and France, his main priority was teaching Religion and preparing young men for First Communion.

He was admired for his simplicity, his directness, his concern for his students, and the intensity of his devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Always in delicate health, Brother Miguel was called to Spain to translate texts. He did not adjust to the European climate and during a revolutionary outbreak in 1909, he supervised a dramatic evacuation of his students to safety. Soon after he contracted pneumonia and died leaving a remarkable reputation as scholar, teacher, and saint.

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Let us remember that each of us is a Temple of the Holy Spirit and that the Spirit of the Living God dwells in Us.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sion rejoices,
celebrates the glory of this great feast day honoring our Brother.
We too rejoicing,
join the heavenly chorus chanting our thanks and praise.
Hail Saint Miguel, in Christian education,
you are the model, scholarly and saintly.
Help us, as you were, to be wise and zealous teachers of Christian youth.

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The saints will exult in glory; they will sing for joy.

Servants of the Lord, bless the Lord forever.

The Lord has given them unending glory;
their name shall be in everlasting remembrance.

Blessed is he who walks perfectly in the way,
who follows the law of the Lord.

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Psalm 34

I will bless the Lord at all times;
praise shall be always in my mouth.
My soul will glory in the Lord
that the poor may hear and be glad.
Magnify the Lord with me;
let us exult His name together.
I sought the Lord Who answered me,
delivered me from all my fears.
Look to the Lord that you may be radiant with joy
and your face not blush for shame.
Learn to savor how good the Lord is;
happy are those who take refuge in Him
Glory be to our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
As it was, is now, and forever will be. Amen.

Proclaim the Word of the Lord to your brothers and sisters.

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Sirach 39: 6-9, 13-14

He will be filled with the spirit of understanding;

He will pour forth his words of wisdom

and in prayer give thanks to the Lord,

Who will direct his knowledge and his counsel

as he meditates upon the mysteries.

He shall show wisdom of what he has learned

and glory in the law of the Lord's covenant.

Many will praise his understanding;

his fame cannot ever be effaced;

Unfading will be his memory,

through all generations his name will live.

Listen, my faithful children: open up your petals,

like roses planted near running waters;

Send up the sweet odor of incense,

break forth in blossoms like the lily.

Send up the sweet odor of your praise;

bless the Lord for all that He has done!

Meditation of De La Salle

God is so good that He does not leave unrewarded the good work that is done for Him and the service that is rendered to Him, especially for the salvation of souls. If it is true that God rewards so generously even in this world those who have left all things for Him that they receive a hundredfold in this life, with how much more reason will He reward even in this present time those who have devoted themselves with zeal to the spread of His kingdom!

To reward so great a work and a service He regards so highly, God gives two kinds of rewards in this world to those who commit themselves untiringly to the work of the salvation of souls. First, He gives them an abundance of grace; second, He gives them a more extended ministry and the greater ability to procure the salvation of souls. Oh, how fortunate you ought to consider yourselves, for being able to work in the field of the Lord since our Lord says that the reaper will infallibly receive his reward.

For the future then, devote yourself with zeal and affection to your work since it will be one of the most helpful ways to assure your salvation.

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Lord Jesus,
through the life and example of Saintly Brother Miguel.
Help us O Lord to take on Your mind and heart.

Lord Jesus,
You have chosen the Brothers
and our colleagues in ministry as Christian educators,
Help us to know Your divine presence in the young and the poor.

Lord Jesus,
You know how ardently we seek dignity and justice for all people,
Help us to work, as did Saintly Brother Miguel,
in unity and in a spirit of loyal service.

Lord Jesus,
You have guided us to conduct schools in honor of Brother Miguel,
Inspire us to be faithful in providing a quality education
for the poor.

Lord Jesus,
You send labors into the vineyard,
Raise up in Your Church men and women
capable of exercising heroic charity
in their readiness to serve the urgent needs
of their brothers and sisters.

Lord Jesus,
You are the promise and joy of life,
Receive into Your everlasting home,
the souls of our Brothers and colleagues
who have gone before us.

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*Most Holy Trinity,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
with great reverence before Your infinite Godhead,
I consecrate myself entirely to You,
to procure Your glory as far as I am able
and in the manner You may require of me.*

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Almighty and everlasting God,
in Saintly Brother Miguel
You gave the Church a distinguished educator of youth.
Grant that by imitating his exemplary dedication,
we learn to welcome young people with kindness
and thereby guide them more surely to You.
We ask this in Your name, Jesus,
You Who are our Brother and Lord.
Amen.

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We are all created for God's glory.
We are all created to do God's will.
I am created to do something
or to be something
for which no one else is created;
I have a place in God's counsels, in God's world,
which no one else has:
whether I be rich or poor,
despised or esteemed by others,
God knows me and calls me by name.
God has created me to do Him some definite service;
He has committed some work to me
which He has not committed to another.

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Saint John Baptist de La Salle
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
Help us to be true to our consecrated life.

Saintly Brother Miguel,
Instill in us a love for the Lord Jesus and our Blessed Mother.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!