

Memorial AUGUST 25

## **BLESSED METHODIUS DOMINIC TRCKA, MARTYR**

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 on 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 Presov, 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 suffered from pneumonia contracted during solitary confinement, which was imposed on him for singing a Christmas carol.

Because of those harsh conditions, he contracted tuberculosis. He died on March 23, 1959. He was first interred in the prison cemetery, and 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

Ps 36:39

The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.  
He is their helper in time of trial.

COLLECT

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

My dear people, you must not think it unaccountable that you should be tested by fire. There is nothing extraordinary in what has happened to you. If you can have some

share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad because you will enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed. It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ, because it means that you have the Spirit of glory, the Spirit of God resting on you. None of you should ever deserve to suffer for being a murderer, a thief, a criminal or an informer; but if anyone of you should suffer for being a Christian, then he is not to be ashamed of it; he should thank God that he has been called one. The time has come for the judgement to begin at the household of God; and if what we know now is only the beginning, what will it be when it comes down to those who refuse to believe God's Good News? If it is hard for a good man to be saved, what will happen to the wicked and to sinners? So even those whom God allows to suffer must trust themselves to the constancy of the Creator and go on doing 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

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: ‘Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of others, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence

of others, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Presider :

Let us lift up our petitions to God our Father, who is for ever faithful and generous in his blessings.

Response: *Lord, bless your people.*

1. For the Redemptorists, that through the intercession of Blessed Methodius, they may continue the work of preaching God's plentiful redemption with dedication and zeal. We pray to the Lord. **R.**
2. For leaders of nations, that they may promote justice, peace and freedom of faith and religion. We pray to the Lord. **R.**
3. For those who are persecuted for their Christian faith, that God will give them

courage and sustain their faith. We pray to the Lord. **R.**

4. For those who suffer unjust imprisonment and deprivation of their rights and freedoms, that they may draw strength and hope from our crucified Lord. We pray to the Lord. **R.**
5. For the sick and the dying, that we may comfort and pray for them in their time of need. We pray to the Lord. **R.**

Presider :

Heavenly Father, like Blessed Methodius, who lived and died witnessing to you in spite of difficulties, help us to live a life of true discipleship. We make this prayer in the precious name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

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.

## PREFACE

Priest : The Lord be with you.

People : And with your spirit.

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 and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our  
salvation, always and everywhere to give you  
thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and  
eternal God.

For the blood of your blessed Martyr,  
Methodius Dominic, poured out like Christ's to  
glorify your name, shows forth your  
marvellous works, by which in our weakness  
you perfect your power and on the feeble  
bestow strength to bear you witness, through  
Christ our Lord.

And so, with the Powers of heaven, we worship you constantly on earth, and before your majesty without end we acclaim:

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

## 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