

7 on 7

October, 2018

Brother Jaime Hilario Barbal

Born January 2, 1898

Entered the novitiate February 24, 1917

Martyred January 18, 1937

Canonized November 21, 1999

Period One

Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God.

Manuel Barbal Cosan (Brother Jaime) was born on 2 January 1898 in Enviny, a small town at the foot of the Pyrenees in northern Spain. Known for his serious nature, he was only 12 years old when, with the blessing of his devout and hardworking parents, he entered the minor seminary of the diocese of Urgel.

Lord, it is early and I am trying to be attentive to you and this class. Brother Jaime knew at an early age that he wanted to dedicate his life to serving you through helping others. Throughout this day may I think about what my heart desires and I feel called to do in my life. Like Br. Jaime, may I look for ways to help others and be present both to you and my classes.

Reflection: What is something I feel called towards and what am I doing to make it a reality?

St. John Baptist De La Salle
Live Jesus in our hearts

Pray for us.
Forever.

Period Two

Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God.

Manuel Barbal Cosan (Brother Jaime) soon developed hearing problems and was advised to return home from the minor seminary and from his desire to become a priest.

Ever-present God, I am told you accompany me always and everywhere but I don't always believe it. Believing in your love for me is difficult especially when my hopes and goals are destroyed. I don't do well on an exam, I don't make the team or cast, I disappoint my parents, the one I am dating ends our relationship. The list can be endless and some days it is. Brother Jaime returned home but was not defeated. Grant me the strength and faith in your presence to know I am loved in the face of defeat.

Reflection: What is something in my life in which I felt defeated but chose to move on believe in myself?

St. John Baptist De La Salle **Pray for us.**
Live Jesus in our hearts **Forever.**

Period Three

Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God.

Convinced that God was calling him, Brother Jaime was overjoyed in 1917 to learn that the Institute of the Christian Brothers would accept him in the novitiate at Irun, Spain.

Gracious God, you surprised Brother Jaime when he was accepted by the Christian Brothers even in spite of his hearing loss. He was not held back by his physical impairment. He was not damaged goods, less than, not normal. Grant us, dear God, the gift to believe in ourselves even if we are not recognized by others; to believe in ourselves as you believe in us.

Reflection: How have I been present to others when they have been sad or felt abandoned? Name for yourself one specific time in which this has happened.

St. John Baptist De La Salle **Pray for us.**
Live Jesus in our hearts **Forever.**

Period Four

Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God.

Brother Jaime was an exceptional teacher and catechist, who believed strongly in the value of universal education, especially for the poor.

What do I value, Lord? What is something I want to dedicate part of my life to? What is important enough for me in service to others? Brother Jaime worked with the poor and disadvantaged. Who do I want to help in my life? Perhaps making life a little easier for my parents and family is a place to start.

Reflection: What needs do I see around me in which I am willing to help?

St. John Baptist De La Salle **Pray for us.**
Live Jesus in our hearts **Forever.**

Period Five

Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God.

After sixteen years in various teaching assignments, his hearing problems forced him to abandon the classroom to work in the garden at the house of formation at San José, in Tarragona. He worked with zeal and effort, finding God in the smallest of tasks. Brother Jaime wrote, "The day you learn to surrender yourself totally to God, you will discover a new world, just as I am experiencing. You will enjoy a peace and a calm unknown, surpassing even the happiest days of your life."

Brother Jaime realized his goal to teach and then he had to give it up. Dear Jesus, I know life events happen that can change everything forcing one to give up what one loves: an athletic injury, death of a parent or grandparent, having to move, rejection in a hoped for outcome. When asked to be the mother of God, Mary said, "Your will be done". Help me, Lord, to be kind to myself and others when we experience having to give something up.

Reflection: Who do I turn to when I am asked to deal with a change I do not want to face?

St. John Baptist De La Salle **Pray for us.**
Live Jesus in our hearts **Forever.**

Period Six

Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God.

In July of 1936 Brother Jaime was on his way to visit his family when Spain's civil war broke out. Recognized as a Brother, he was arrested and jailed. In December he was confined in a prison ship with several other brothers. On January 15, 1937 he was given a summary trial. In that trial his defense lawyer told him to place his occupation as a gardener but he refused to do so and said he would claim to be a Brother as was the case. Brother Jaime Hilario insisted on his identity as a religious brother and thereby sealed his doom. He was brought to the cemetery known as the Mount of Olives on January 18th to face execution. His last words to his assailants were "To die for Christ, my young friends, is to live." When two volleys failed to meet their mark, the soldiers dropped their rifles and fled in panic. The commander, shouting a gross insult, fired five shots at close range and Brother Jaime fell at his feet.

Lord, to answer in truth. To not lie and tell another story. Brother Jaime could have said he was a gardener and not a brother. Sort of the truth. Give me the conviction and integrity, O Lord, that I may be truthful and honest. I doubt if I will be asked to give up my life, but a punishment or loss of a friendship may be the price I pay to be true to myself.

Reflection: Think of a time you told the truth knowing the consequence you would endure but chose to be honest.

St. John Baptist De La Salle
Live Jesus in our hearts

**Pray for us.
Forever.**

Period Seven

Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God.

Brother Jaime was the first of the 97 De La Salle Brothers killed in Spain during the Spanish Civil War and to be recognized as a martyr. For one killed "in odium fidei" (in hatred of the faith) no miracle is needed for their beatification but one is needed for sainthood. The miracle was validated and Brother Jaime Hilario Barbal was canonized as a saint on November 21, 1999 in Saint Peter's Square.

We know Brother Jaime's story. We do not know those of the other 96 Brothers who were killed for their faith during the Spanish Civil War. Brother Jaime lived and died as a Christian Brother – one among many. What are my values and beliefs I would be willing to die for? Lord, grant me the strength to stand up for what I value or believe no matter what the cost.

Reflection: How has my life experience shaped what I believe?

St. John Baptist De La Salle
Live Jesus in our hearts

**Pray for us.
Forever.**