

April 27

**SAINT PETER ARMENGOL,
RELIGIOUS AND MARTYR**

Memorial

Peter Armengol was born about the year 1238 in Guardial dels Prats, Spain. He lived his youth devoid of God. Through the grace of God he was converted and led a life of penance. He entered the Order of Mercy and carried out several redemptions. In the redemption of 1266, he gave himself as hostage for the freedom of slaves. On that occasion he was hanged, but his life was spared through the miraculous protection of our Lady. He died about the year 1304.

From the common of a martyr, except for the following:

Invitatory

Ant. Come, let us worship Christ, the King of martyrs, alleluia.

Office of Readings

HYMN

Faithful disciple of Christ,
You wrote in your own blood
The testimony of your love.

With Christ, the Lamb of our redemption,
You did share the cross and the conquest
That led you to the kingdom of the Blest.

You freed the oppressed from the foe,
Strengthened the weak and the wavering,
And led the stray to the Father's home.

Now intercede for us with the Lord,
That he may keep us on the way
That leads to heaven above.

Glory and praise to you, O Christ;
In the martyrs you let shine
The strength of your Spirit Divine.

SECOND READING

From the "Treatise on love towards the slaves" by Ignatius Vidondo, Mercedarian.

(Espejo catolico, Pamplona 1658, pp. 155; 227ff)

The reason for loving our neighbor is our love for God

God showed great mercy and love for man, who had become a slave under the tyrannical power of the devil on account of the first sin. God loved us so much that he gave up his only begotten Son for our freedom and redemption (cf. John 3:14). The perfection of the Christian law consists in

the supernatural virtue of love, which gives origin to the moral virtue of mercy. Therefore, love is the source of our actions if we perform them keeping in mind God as our supernatural end and the good of our neighbors out of love for God.

We Mercedarians redeem the Christian slaves for love of God who is Love and deserves to be loved for himself. The reason for which we love our neighbor is because we love God, who is Love and source of all love. Therefore, this twofold love has the same source and nature.

The virtue of mercy demands external acts of charity. The redemption of Christian slaves from the power of the infidels, to protect them from errors, vices, and danger of denying the faith, is an act of love toward God and neighbor. From this act of mercy, the virtue of love shines forth moving us to work for the freedom of the slaves who are in painful conditions of captivity suffering even spiritually with the danger of being lost in body and soul.

Therefore, the redemption of captives from the infidels is a corporal work of mercy of which the virtue of charity, and not a mere merciful feeling, is the source. It is the love of God and neighbor that moves us to free the slaves from the pains of slavery and from the danger of losing moral values and of denying their faith. We redeem them so that they, freed from bodily and spiritual dangers, may serve God and his holy Church, receive the holy sacraments, and, through the practice of virtue until the end of their life, enable their souls to enjoy God. Then, at the resurrection of the dead, their bodies too will enjoy the vision of the holy humanity of the glorious and blessed Christ.

RESPONSORY 1 John 4:16, 7

We have come to believe in the love that God has for us.
— He who abides in love abides in God and God in him.

Let us love one another because God is Love.
— He who abides in love abides in God and God in him.

Prayer as in Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

How great is your name,
O Lord, On earth, in sea, and sky!
The whole universe proclaims your laud
And your children to your glory testify!

You made Peter Armengol sublime,
By giving him strength and might
To carry his cross after Christ,
Who for us gave up his life.

Help us, we beg you, O Lord,
To faithfully obey your call;
Make us ready and fervent
To spend ourselves for the oppressed.

Glory and praise be given
To the Most Holy Trinity:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

Throughout all eternity.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. The life I live is not my own: Christ is living in me. It is a life of faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me, alleluia.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us praise God who through Jesus Christ has revealed himself as our Father and say to him:
Lord, we give you honor and thanks.

Lord, help us to act always under the guidance of your wisdom and grace,
— may we do everything for your glory.

Lord grant us to love fully the mystery of your Church,
— may we see in her the sacrament of salvation.

Lord, enable us to recognize the times when you visit us and call us to a conversion of life,
— and like Peter Armengol help us to respond with generosity in serving you and doing good to others.

We thank you for having given Mary as Mother to us;
— may her spirit live in us for the glory of your kingdom.

We thank you for making us mindful of your holiness through your saints,
— may we live a humble and contrite life and become worthy to contemplate you forever.

Our Father . . .

Prayer

Merciful Lord,
you raised Saint Peter Armengol
to the perfection of love.
Fill our hearts with the same spirit
that moved him to offer himself to you
as a pleasing victim
for the defense of the Christian faith
and the freedom of captives.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
one God, for ever and ever.

Evening Prayer

HYMN as in Morning Prayer.

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. I have full confidence that now as always, Christ will be exalted through me whether I live or die, alleluia.

INTERCESSIONS

Christ, by his example, taught us in the Gospel the way that leads to the kingdom of heaven.

Let us humbly pray to him:

Jesus, Son of Mary, hear us.

Lord, you are full of power and rich in mercy,
— let the poor and the needy put their trust in you.

Lord, you call mankind to conversion in order to become a new creation;
— may your grace enlighten the sinner so that he may find you as Peter Armengol did.

Lord, do not permit us to judge any of our brothers and sisters,
— for we all are to be judged by you.

Lord, you entrusted the mission of evangelization to your Church.
— May our missionaries be helped by the prayers of the entire Mercedarian family.

Lord, by your resurrection, you are the hope for all men on the last day.
— Admit our departed brothers and sisters into your kingdom.

Our Father . .

Prayer

Merciful Lord,
you raised Saint Peter Armengol
to the perfection of love.
Fill our hearts with the same Spirit
that moved him to offer himself to you
as a pleasing victim
for the defense of the Christian faith
and the freedom of captives.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.