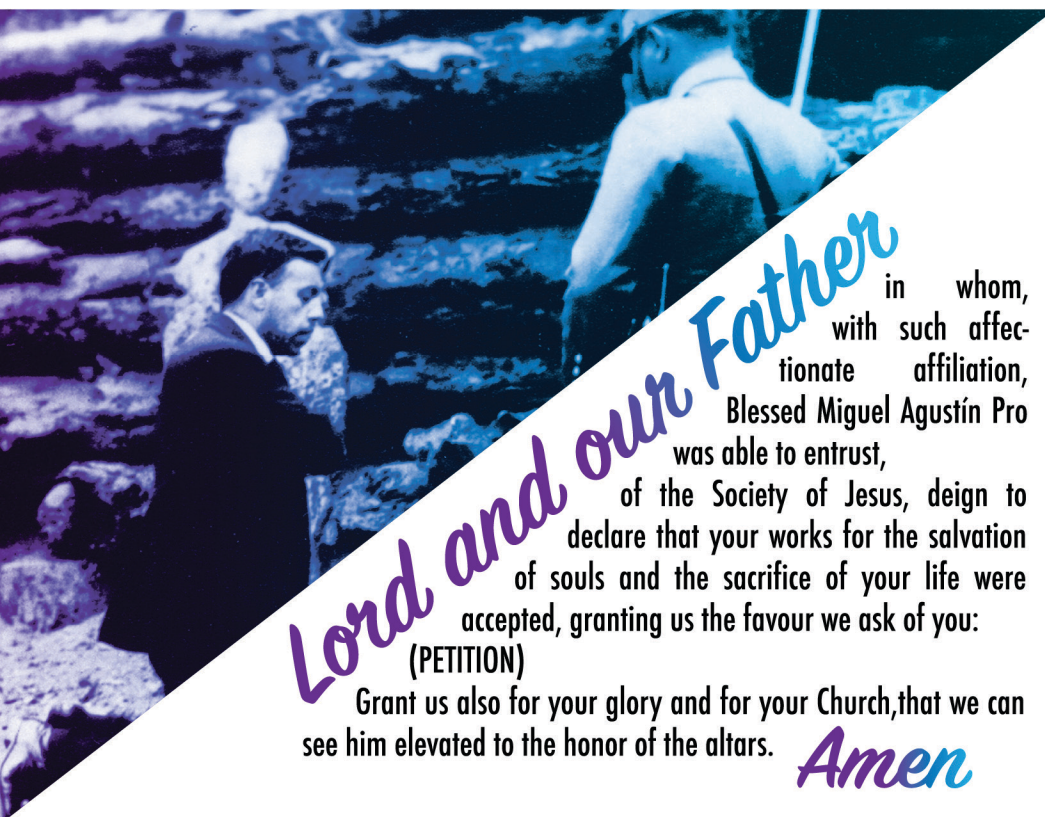


# Lord and our Father

in whom,  
with such affectionate affiliation,  
Blessed Miguel Agustín Pro  
was able to entrust,  
of the Society of Jesus, deign to  
declare that your works for the salvation  
of souls and the sacrifice of your life were  
accepted, granting us the favour we ask of you:  
(PETITION)  
Grant us also for your glory and for your Church, that we can  
see him elevated to the honor of the altars. Amen



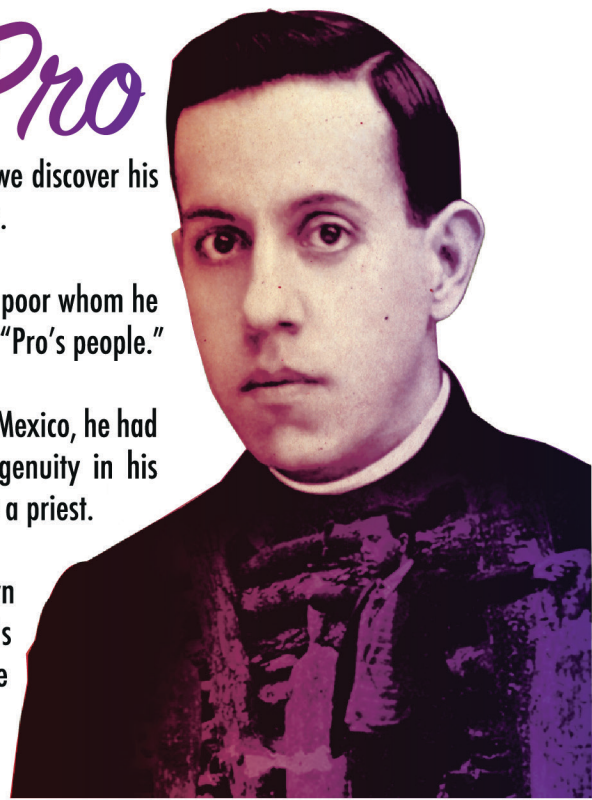
# Father Pro

As we enter into the life of Padre Pro, we discover his importance as a man and as a Christian.

The "little priest" was committed to the poor whom he loved and served, and whom he called, "Pro's people."

During the persecution of the Church in Mexico, he had to adopt disguises and show great ingenuity in his attempts to conceal the fact that he was a priest.

This was all done so that, risking his own life, he could respond to the call of his "souls" and assist them with courage and good humour.



He was a kind man, able to make people laugh, and he had a great respect and love for people and for all things sacred.

He came from Guadalupe in the Mexican state of Zacatecas. In 1911, he answered the call to become a priest and joined the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits).

When the persecution of the Catholic Church by the Carranza government was unleashed, he and his fellow seminarians left the country in order to continue their studies in the US, Europe or South America. He taught in the Jesuit College in Granada, Nicaragua, and studied theology in Belgium where he was ordained a priest in 1925. He is known for his short but heroic priesthood.

He was of poor health and for that reason his superiors decided that he should return to Mexico, in order not to die far from home.

It was on his return that he became one of the key players in the 'Cristiada' or Cristero War (1926-29). This was a difficult time for the Church. The anti-Catholic "Calles Laws" (named after President Calles) obliged priests to be registered and prohibited any religious ceremony either in public or even in private houses. To protest these unjust laws, the Mexican bishops ordered the closure of all churches and the suspension of all religious services.

Who was Padre Pro?



## Why did they kill him?

On 13th November 1927, an attempt was made to assassinate the former President, General Obregon. Padre Pro and his brothers were accused of complicity in the crime, arrested and jailed.

When the real perpetrator, Luis Segura Vilchis, learned of this, he handed himself over to the police. He told them that the Pro brothers had played no role in the assassination attempt. But, even so, they were not released.

Subject to false accusations, without any proof of their alleged guilt, and in the absence of any trial, the then president, Plutarco Elias Calles, ordered Padre Pro and his brothers to be executed by a firing-squad on 23rd November 1927.

On that day, Padre Pro emerged from his cell to find the yard filled with soldiers and people who had been "invited to the show". Photographers and members of the diplomatic corps were present.

He came out, walking calmly, and as he did so, he heard one of the soldiers say, "Father, forgive me."  
-Not only do I forgive you, I thank you.  
Then they asked him his last will  
-To pray to God, my Father.

He knelt down in front of the crowd and, with his arms stretched out in the form of a cross, he spent a few moments in recollection, offering his life for the salvation of Mexico and the conversion of his persecutors.

He then stood up, opened his arms again in the form of a cross and shouted:

*Long live Christ the King* and after receiving the impacts he fell to the ground, where, seeing that he was still breathing, he was given the coup de grace.

## Father Pro today

Father Pro is a symbol of the vocation to faith and struggle for the respect of dignity and human rights promoted by the Jesuits through the Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez Human Rights Center A.C.

Faithful Mexicans were quick to proclaim Padre Pro a martyr. He was beatified by SS John Paul II on 25th September 1988. The Church now hopes and asks God for a miracle to take place through Padre Pro's intercession so that his canonization can proceed in Rome and he be declared a saint.

If you wish to bear witness to such a favour, learn more about the life of Father Pro, request relics for a parish, acquire novenas, stamps and medals, we wait for you in:

The Holly Family Church located on Puebla street corner Orizaba, Colonia Roma, 2 blocks from the subway and bus station Insurgentes. Padre Pro's remains lie there. Visitors come in their hundreds from around the world to thank him for favours received through his intercession.

Padre Pro Museum, at the side of the church, on Calle Orizaba.  
Is open from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm, Tuesdays to Sundays.

## Let's keep in touch



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*"We must speak,  
shout against injustice,  
with confidence,  
and not with fear"*

*Miguel A. Pro SJ*