



A New Guild for Blessed James Miller



BLESSED
JAMES
MILLER

Martyred in Guatemala, Blessed James Miller, FSC, is the first religious Brother from the United States to be beatified. Raised on a Wisconsin farm, he joined the De La Salle Christian Brothers, living his vocation as a missionary and educator working for justice and social change for those on the margins.

Christian Brothers Conference has established the **Brother James Miller Guild** to promote his cause for canonization and launched www.brotherjamesmiller.org with resources, prayer cards, online events, lesson plans and more to increase awareness of his story.

Brother. Teacher. Missionary. Martyr.

Born in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, in 1944, James Alfred Miller met the Brothers of the Christian Schools (also called De La Salle Christian Brothers or Christian Brothers) in high school and soon after entered formation. The mission of the Christian Brothers is to provide a Christian and human education to the young, especially the poor.

After completing novitiate and professing first vows, Brother James taught Spanish, English and religion at Cretin High School in Saint Paul, Minnesota. He served as a missionary in Nicaragua for 10 years after his final vows in 1969. During a later missionary assignment in Huehuetenango, Guatemala, Brother James taught English, religion and Guatemalan art to indigenous Mayan students.

At the time, the Guatemalan military was conscripting young indigenous boys into the army. Students were exempt, but boys from the Brothers' school, Casa Indígena, were still forced to join. The Brothers angered the Army by providing documentation proving the boys were students for their release.

Brother James wrote to friends of the increasing danger, writing:

“The level of personal violence is reaching appalling proportions (murders, tortures, kidnappings, threats, etc.) and the Catholic Church is being persecuted because of its option for the poor and oppressed. God knows why he continues to call me to Guatemala when some friends and relatives encourage me to pull out for comfort and safety. I have been a De La Salle Christian Brother for nearly 20 years now, and my commitment to my vocation grows steadily in the context of my work in Central America. I pray to God for the grace and strength to serve him faithfully by my presence among the poor and oppressed of Guatemala. I place my life in his providence; I place my trust in him.”

www.brotherjamesmiller.org



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On Feb. 13, 1982, three assailants – presumed to be from the Guatemalan army’s death squad – gunned Brother James down while he was repairing a school wall. On Nov. 8, 2018, Pope Francis declared Brother James Miller, FSC, a martyr of the Church. Brother James was beatified on Dec. 7, 2019, on the soccer field of Colegio de La Salle in Huehuetenango where he had once taught.

One miracle is needed before Brother James’ cause for canonization can move forward at the Vatican. The new Brother James Miller Guild was formed to actively support his cause for canonization.

Showcase the story of this unique Brother, Martyr and Blessed in the U.S. Catholic Church!

For media inquiries or interview requests with Christian Brothers, guild leadership or experts on the life of Brother James Miller, email Anna Capizzi at acapizzi@cbconf.org.

★ Key dates

- Jan. 26 – Feb. 1** 2025 Catholic Schools Week
- Feb. 13** Feast Day of Blessed James Miller
- May 1** Religious Brothers Day
- Nov. 2 – 8** 2025 National Vocations Awareness Week
- Dec. 7** Anniversary of Blessed James Miller’s Beatification (2019) and Founding of the Brother James Miller Guild (2024)



About the Brothers of the Christian Schools

Saint John Baptist de La Salle, the patron saint of teachers, founded the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (De La Salle Christian Brothers), a unique group of lay religious men dedicated exclusively to education. Founded in 17th-century France, De La Salle’s mission lives on in 80 countries, with 3,000 Brothers and over 100,000 lay Lasallian Partners serving 1.1 million young people in 1,150 ministries.

About Christian Brothers Conference

Christian Brothers Conference, based in Romeoville, Illinois, is the central office of the Lasallian Region of North America. The conference convenes and engages Lasallians through formation programs, educational programs, advocacy, and services and resources designed to promote Lasallian education and the Lasallian mission. Christian Brother Conference houses the Brother James Miller Guild.

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