

MURAL OF THE MARTYRS OF BARBASTRO

Before this Mural, we begin the Visit to the Museum of the Martyrs. A descriptive Mural that tells the history of these Martyrs and tries to show that it is not a story of death and defeat but of triumph and glory.

All of it is set in red, a symbol of suffering and love, that is transformed into the ochre of triumph and the white of Glory. That white light that envelops everything and becomes LIGHT for those who contemplate the martyrs and come to know them.

It is like a family photo that we usually take to remember the critical events of our life. For this, I have used the last photo of each Martyr to reproduce their physical semblance. Photos with standard gestures, without "poses" of heroes - which they really were - and that is how I have imagined them. The last gesture of a normal life lived according to the Gospel, which later ended in martyrdom.

I have placed some of them on their knees, others with their arms crossed as they would pray daily, but without exaggeration. I have placed some of them with significant objects: Brother Porter, Francisco Castán with the bell in his hand: he rang it to call everyone to martyrdom. Leoncio Pérez, with the rosary in his hand: when questioned about where the weapons were hidden, he took the rosary out of his pocket and responded - "We only have this one weapon; that is enough for us"; Mr. Ramon Illa, with the prayer book (Breviary) because he prayed it every day even though he had no obligation to do.

I have placed them in groups according to the date of their martyrdom, reducing the size as they recede to the background to create spatial impression, but above all, to create the feeling of moving from this life of pain towards the life of Light and Glory.

I have also referred to specific places in Barbastro. On one side, the neighborhood of San Hipólito, where the seminary was located and where the martyrs lived in an atmosphere of joy and apostolic mutual influence. This building formed a block with the Church of the Heart of Mary. In this Church, the day before being imprisoned, they had a Eucharistic celebration in which they sang: "O Jesus! I desire to love you without measure; how happy I would be if I could give my life for your love".

From here, they were taken up to the municipal Square, the city's administrative center, where the three Superiors were imprisoned. To their right is the Piarist College, where all the others were locked up. All this is next to the Cathedral, the spiritual center.

On this side, I have highlighted the figure of St. Anthony Claret who did not become a martyr as he wished, despite the attacks he suffered. I have presented him, with his hand gesture, encouraging his sons to be martyrs.

On the other side, I have placed the figure of the Heart of Mary on the monument that recalls the place where they were martyred, with a gesture of welcoming and crowning, with the laurel of victory, these Sons of hers who died singing to her: "Po Ti, mi Reina, la sangre dar" (For you, my Queen, I'll give my blood).

The image of the Monastery of El Pueyo, which the Martyrs saw at the moment of their death, serves as the background to the whole mural.

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