



blessed  
**Juan Maria  
de la Cruz, scj**

*He lived loving  
999  
and died forgiving*



**Sacerdotes del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús  
Reparadores | Dehonianos**



Imagen: Iglesia del Crucifijo, en Puente la Reina (Navarra),  
sepulcro del Beato Juan Maria de la Cruz



# blessed Juan Maria de la Cruz, scj

Blessed Juan María de la Cruz García Méndez was born on September 25, 1891 in San Esteban de los Patos (Avila). He received a call to the priesthood, and entered the seminary in Avila. He was ordained a priest and exercised his ministry as pastor in several villages of the diocese.

In 1926, after meeting Fr. Zicke, SCJ, the founder of the seminary in Puente la Reina, he made his profession in the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart. In Puente la Reina, for nine years, he was responsible for the daily needs of seminarians and encouraged their vocation.

At the outbreak of civil war, he came to Valencia in search of refuge. When he saw the church of Saint Johns burning, he stopped, horrified. Despite wearing plainclothes, he did not hide his vocation and exclaimed "I am a priest." A month later, on the night of August 23, 1936, he and other prisoners in Silla (Valencia) were shot and killed.

On March 11, 2001, he was beatified by Pope John Paul II. His memorial is celebrated on September 22, and he is invoked as "Patron of Dehonian vocations."



## **Prayer for the intercession of Blessed Juan Maria de la Cruz**

God our Father, rich in goodness and mercy. You have given your Church the gift of the testimony of your children. Grant us through the intercession of your servant Blessed Juan Maria de la Cruz and his fellow martyrs, that we may imitate his life and offer our entire selves to you. Grant us your abundant grace in the service of vocations, and in charity for the poor and simple. May we always witness your love. Amen.

**dehonianos**  
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