

**Bl. Benito Solana Ruiz
(Spain) 1882-1936, Martyr**

*Worked as a nurse and tailor in Zaragoza, Spain¹
Passionist Brother*



Benito Solana Ruiz of the Virgin of Villar, professed religious, Passionists, was born on February 17, 1882, in Cintruenigo, Navarra, Spain, the son of the village carpenter.

His parents were not supportive of his desire to enter the religious life. However, in 1913, at the age of 31, he entered the Passionist Order in Daimiel, Spain. He was not a very good student and had difficulty with seminary studies. He became a brother taking the religious name Benito of the Virgin of Villar.

He served in many capacities. He worked as a cook and tailor in the Passionist house in Daimiel, Spain. In 1919, he moved to the house in Santa Clara, Cuba, where he worked as both a tailor and porter. In 1922, he was assigned to the part of Mexico City called Tacubaya.

While assigned in Mexico the anti-Catholic persecution began and the Cristero War began. He was, therefore, recalled to Daimiel, Spain, where he worked briefly before moving to Zaragoza.

In Zaragoza, Spain, Benito began nursing the sick. *[Note: Located in Zaragoza is the Church of Our Lady of the Pilar - where tradition reports the Blessed Virgin Mary was translocated by angels to give encouragement to Saint James the Great as he preached the Gospel message in Spain].* As a Passionist Brother, Benito was known for his humility, charity and patience, especially when nursing sick patients.² He, himself, suffered from rheumatism.¹

Blessed Benito Solana Ruiz was shot to death on July 25, 1936, in Urda, Toledo, Spain, at the beginning of the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). Twenty-five fellow Passionists were also killed. He was beatified by Pope St. John Paul II on October 1, 1989. (Memorial - July 25).³

References:

1 "Blessed Benito Solana Ruiz". CatholicSaints.Info. 4 April 2018. Web. 8 December 2021.
<<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-benito-solana-ruiz/>>

2) Mission Priest (July 23, 2021). Bl. Benito Solana Ruiz: A Jack-of-all-trades. Accessed 5 Apr 2022.
<https://missionpriest.com/bl-benito-solana-ruiz-a-jack-of-all-trades/>

3) Hagiography Circle: An Online Resource on Contemporary Hagiography. 1934, 1936-1939. Martyrs of the Religious Persecution during the Spanish Civil War. 15. Benito Solana Ruiz. Accessed 5 April 2022.
www.newsaints.faithweb.com/martyrs/MSPC30.htm.

Note: This biography is for all desiring to grow in holiness and follow His Holiness Pope Pius XI address to 2000 nurses assembled at Castel Gondolfo on August 27, 1935 for the II World Congress of Catholic Nurses (www.ciciams.org / www.nacn-usa.org): *to first and foremost bring the Christian supernatural, Christ to our patients, bring salvation to souls.* May it also help nursing students with your Nursing History course. Source: Diana L. Ruzicka (2022). *The Book of Nurse Saints*. Available at www.lulu.com/spotlight/Ruzicka