

Novena to Blessed James Miller, FSC

Day 1 - August 1, 2025

About Blessed James Miller, FSC

Early Life and Vocation Discovery (1944–1962)

Born on September 21, 1944, in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, on a family farm. Brother James was raised in a devout Catholic family, deeply shaped by rural, hardworking values. He felt a strong early call to religious life and education. During high school, James Miller entered the juniorate of the **De La Salle Christian Brothers** in Missouri.

Novena Prayer

Let us pray ...

*O faithful Shepherd, Blessed Brother James Miller, FSC,
as a Christian Brother and Lasallian missionary,
you tilled the soil with your hands
and invited Jesus Christ to till the soil of your soul.*

*You became a sign of the love of Christ,
the Good Shepherd for your students
and blessed their lives by your ministry.*

*You stood firm and did not run from danger,
bringing glory to God, His Church,
your Lasallian family, and your martyrdom.*

*Blessed Brother James,
obtain from the heart of Jesus
our request **for the healing of Dominic,**
student at St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute,
and pray for me, that I too may be a sign of Christ's love.*

*Teach me to faithfully till the soil of this life
in this reality given to me by our Father,
unafraid to stay with those God has given me,
no matter the cost.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

St. John Baptist de La Salle... Pray for us!
Live Jesus in our hearts... Forever!

Source: <https://brotherjamesmiller.org/>

Novena to Blessed James Miller, FSC

Day 2 - August 2, 2025

About Blessed James Miller, FSC

Initial Formation and First Teaching Assignments (1962–1969)

Brother James became a postulant with the Brothers in 1962. He took his first vows in 1963 and final vows in 1969. Brother James earned his Master's degree in Spanish at St. Mary's University of Minnesota. He taught at Cretin High School in St. Paul, Minnesota. In this role, Brother James was recognized for his dedication and leadership in building maintenance and teaching Spanish.

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Day 3 - August 3, 2025

About Blessed James Miller, FSC

Missionary Calling and Assignment to Nicaragua (1969-1979)

In 1969, Brother James was sent as a missionary to Bluefields, Nicaragua. He taught, built schools, and expanded educational opportunities for those who were poor and lived in rural communities with limited access to education. He spent just over 10 years in Nicaragua overseeing the building multiple schools and administering a vocational education campus.

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Day 4 - August 4, 2025

About Blessed James Miller, FSC

Expulsion from Nicaragua and Return to U.S. (1979)

Due to the Sandinista Revolution, his religious superiors ordered Brother James and his fellow Brothers to return to the United States out of fear of retaliation due to the governmental regime change. He returned to teach at Cretin High School in Minnesota, where he continued to teach, yet his heart longed to return to Central America and continue as a missionary.

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Day 5 - August 5, 2025

About Blessed James Miller, FSC

Mission to Guatemala and Final Ministry (1981-1982)

In early 1981, Brother James was assigned to Huehuetenango, Guatemala, amid civil war and political violence. He taught at a Lasallian school for indigenous boys, helping to maintain and expand facilities. Brother James and the Brothers sought to protect the students from military conscription, which allowed those not enrolled in schools to be forced into the army. This act of protecting the students put the Brothers at odds with the army.

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Day 6 - August 6, 2025

About Blessed James Miller, FSC

Witness to Injustice and Living in Danger

Brother James and the Brothers saw the political climate and violence worsen. Despite the risks, he felt compelled to stay and continue to minister in Huehuetenago. "I have been a Christian Brother for nearly 20 years now, and commitment to my vocation grows steadily stronger in my work in Central America. I pray to God for the grace and strength to serve him faithfully among the poor and oppressed of Guatemala. I place my life in his providence; I place my trust in him."
-Brother James.

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Day 7 - August 7, 2025

About Blessed James Miller, FSC

Martyrdom (February 13, 1982)

On February 13, 1982, while repairing a wall outside the school, Brother James was shot and killed by three masked men. He was 37 years old. The Brothers, like many religious communities, stance for the rights and dignity of people, put them in harm's way. Whether specifically targeting Br. James, or making an example of him, his death, along with the many known and unknown individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice, we hold up as faithful witnesses to the Gospel.

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Day 8 - August 8, 2025

About Blessed James Miller, FSC

Legacy and Recognition

Brother James is remembered as a martyr for faith and justice, especially for indigenous communities and marginalized youth. His life exemplifies the Lasallian charism, with zeal for education, solidarity with the poor, and courageous witness as a sign of faith.

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Day 9 - August 9, 2025

About Blessed James Miller, FSC

Beatification and Ongoing Impact (2019-Present)

Brother James was beatified on December 7, 2019, in Hehuetenango, Guatemala. He was declared “Blessed” by Pope Francis, recognized as a martyr killed *in odium fidei* (“in hatred of the faith”). Brother James continues to inspire Lasallian educators, missionaries, and advocates for peace and justice around the world.

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