

# BLESSED STEPHEN SÁNDOR:

Salesian Brother, Master Printer, Youth Animator, Martyr

Memorial – June 8

From the Common of Martyrs: For One Martyr



## INTRODUCTION

Stephen Sándor was born in Szolnok (Hungary) on 26 October 1914. As a boy he felt drawn by the Salesian charism and in 1940 he made his first religious profession as a Salesian Brother. He was distinguished by commitment to education among young apprentice printers, for his love of the house of God and in the animation of various youth groups. He made his perpetual profession in 1946. With the advent of communism, he chose to remain in Hungary and to devote himself secretly to the education of young people. In 1952, during the persecution, he was arrested and sentenced to death. His faith in God and his love for young people were sealed with his life when he was executed in Budapest on 8 June 1953.

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

This is a martyr of the faith  
who poured his blood for Christ;  
fearing not the threats of the judges,  
he reached the kingdom of heaven.

## COLLECT

Almighty and eternal God,  
you gave the blessed martyr Stephen  
the strength to meet trials and persecution with faith,  
and the grace to offer his life for the sake of the young.  
Grant, through his intercession,  
that we may always work in the service of truth,  
and bring the gospel of joy to all.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.  
Amen.

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Let your blessing descend like dewfall, O Lord,  
on the offering which we present to you  
and confirm us in the faith  
which the blessed martyr Stephen  
witnessed to at the price of his life.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## PREFACE

*The example and the intercession of the martyrs*

P: The Lord be with you.                      All: And with your spirit.  
P: Lift up your hearts.                         All: We lift them up to the Lord.  
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.     All: It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For the blood of your blessed Martyr Stephen,  
poured out like Christ's to glorify your name,  
shows forth your marvelous works,  
by which in our weakness you perfect your power  
and on the feeble bestow strength to bear you witness,  
through Christ our Lord.

And so, with the Powers of heaven,  
we worship you constantly on earth,  
and before your majesty  
without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** *(Mt. 16:24)*

“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me,” says the Lord.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

May the participation in your holy mysteries,  
impart to us, O Father, the Spirit of fortitude  
which rendered Blessed Stephen faithful in your service  
and victorious in martyrdom.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**SOLEMN BLESSING**

Please bow and pray for God’s blessing.

May almighty God keep you from all harm  
and bless you with every good gift.

All: Amen.

May He set his Word in your heart and fill you with lasting joy.

All: Amen.

Like Blessed Stephen Sandor, may you walk in God’s ways,  
always knowing what is right and good,  
until you enter your heavenly inheritance.

All: Amen.

May almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

#### A proclamation from the First Letter of St. John.

[1 John 4:19 - 5:5]

<sup>4:19</sup> “Brothers, we love because God first loved us. <sup>20</sup> If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup> This is the commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. <sup>5:1</sup> Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the father loves also the one begotten by him. <sup>2</sup> In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup> For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup> for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who indeed is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

#### The Word of the Lord.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

[Psalm 116:10-19]

#### Let our response be: *“Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of His faithful.”*

I kept faith, even when I said, “I am greatly afflicted!”

I said in my alarm, “No one can be trusted!” [R]

How can I repay the LORD for all the good done for me?

I will raise the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD. [R]

I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

Too costly in the eyes of the LORD is the death of his faithful. [R]

LORD, I am your servant; you have loosed my bonds.

I will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD. [R]

I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,

In the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. [R]

### GOSPEL ANTIPHON (Gv 12:25)

#### Alleluia

“Unless the grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains but a grain; if instead it dies, it produces much fruit,” says the Lord.”

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

### GOSPEL

[John 12:24-26]

#### A proclamation from the Holy Gospel according to St. John.

<sup>24</sup> Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. <sup>25</sup> Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.

#### The Gospel of the Lord.

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

**PRESIDER:**

Beloved Brothers, with hearts brimming with joy and gratitude, let us raise our prayers to our faithful and merciful Lord so that the heroic witness of Blessed Stephen Sándor may be for us as yeast of hope and seed of renewal.

We shall say: *Lord, we beseech you, hear our prayer.*

1. For the Holy Father, *NN*: guided by the Holy Spirit, may he confirm in the faith his brothers and sisters and steer the ship of Peter with wisdom, vision, and a sure hand. We pray.
2. For those persecuted because of truth and justice: may their sacrifice obtain the conversion of their persecutors and hasten the day on which every tear shall be wiped clean and every hunger satisfied. We pray.
3. For the Salesian Family: following the example of Blessed Stephen, may they continue to announce the Gospel of joy to the young by way of the pedagogy of kindness. We pray.
4. For the young: may the testimony and intercession of Blessed Stephen Sándor nourish in them the hope of a world of justice, of true freedom and of peace, and arouse in them the vocation to the Salesian life. We pray.
5. For all of us gathered here: strengthened by the Word of God and the Bread of Life, and following the example of Christ our Savior, may we learn to devote our lives for our brothers and sisters, sharing with them the goods of both earth and heaven. We pray.

**PRESIDER:**

Father, holy and merciful, precious to your eyes is the death of your faithful who place their hope in you. We give you thanks for having gifted us with Blessed Stephen Sándor, a religious educator of youth and a courageous witness of the Gospel. You, who made him strong in his struggle for the faith, hear the prayers of this family: may his heroic testimony obtain for us prosperous and serene days and spur us to love you above all things and our brothers and sisters in the love of Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.