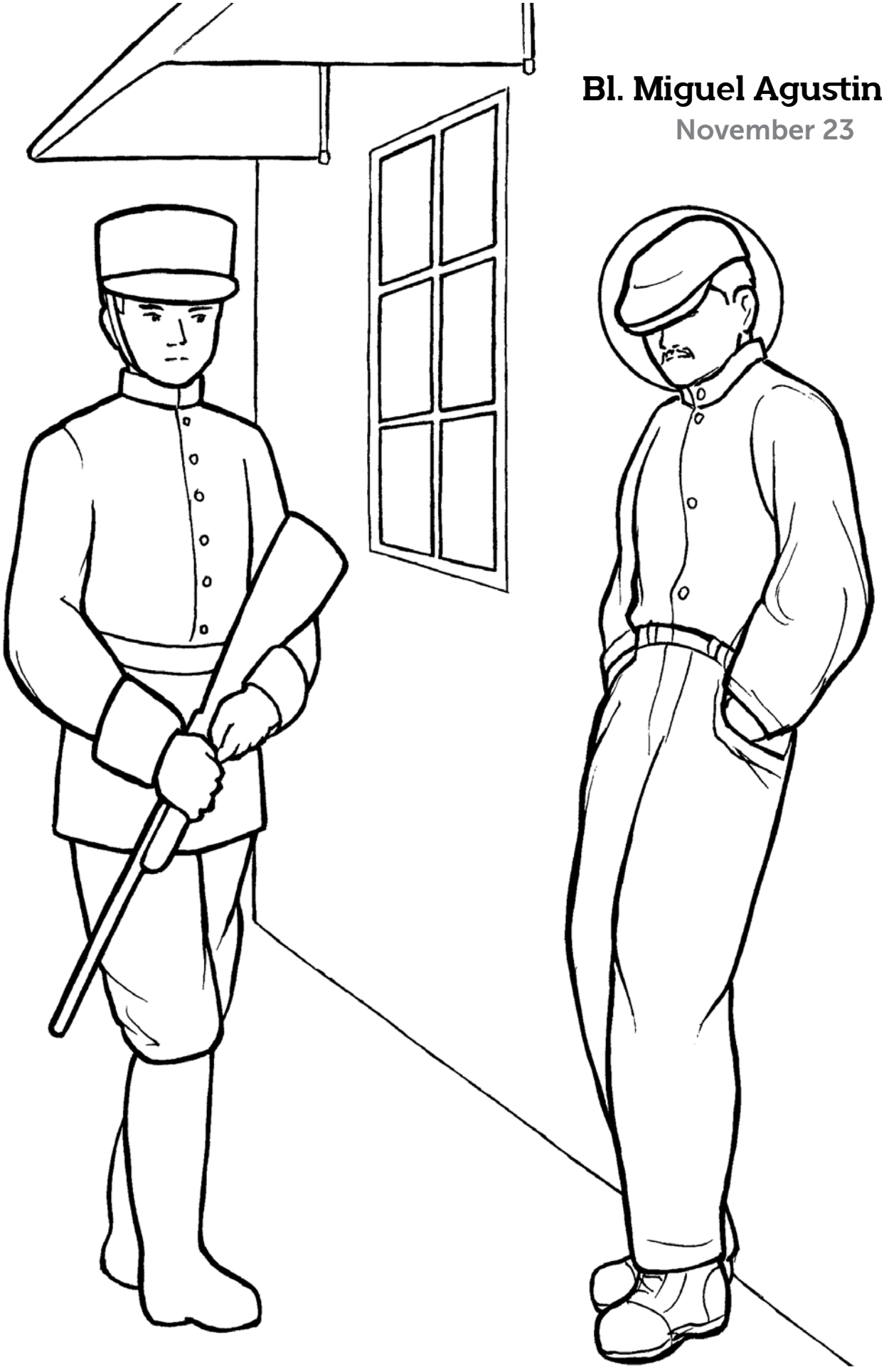
Bl. Miguel Agustin Pro

November 23



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Bl. Miguel Agustin Pro

1891–1927 • Mexico

Miguel was a fun-loving Mexican boy, always cheerful and delighting in boyish pranks. One day, he suffered a fall, which knocked him unconscious. His worried parents rushed to his side, and when he came to, he immediately asked for his favorite Mexican sweetbread, *cocol*. From then on his friends and family nicknamed him "Cocol."

Simultaneously playful and prayerful, Miguel heard God's call in his heart to become a priest, and so he entered a Jesuit seminary. One year later, the Mexican Revolution broke out. This revolution sought not only to transform the Mexican government, but to change the hearts of the people by stamping out their deep Catholic faith. The Jesuits fled the country, and Miguel finished his studies abroad and was ordained a priest in Belgium.

After his ordination, Fr. Miguel suffered terrible and painful stomach problems, and so his superior sent him back to Mexico, hoping that Fr. Miguel would recover by returning home. Soon after Fr. Miguel returned to Mexico, the Mexican government passed a new law forbidding any worship in public. Fr. Miguel saw that God had sent him to serve the faithful Catholics who were suffering under a government seeking to destroy their faith. He hoped one day to die for Jesus and offer his life to bring his beloved Mexico back to Christ.

To serve the faithful in secret, Fr. Miguel put on disguises and rode about on his bicycle or walked on foot to give the faithful Holy Communion. At one time, he dressed up as an office worker, another time as a mechanic, and yet another even as a beggar! He would sign his letters with the name "Cocol," his old nickname, to hide his identity.

Eventually, he was discovered, and when a failed attempt was made to assassinate a government official, Fr. Miguel was arrested and falsely accused of the crime. He was sentenced to death without a trial. A government officer leading Fr. Miguel to his death begged for forgiveness. Fr. Miguel gave the officer not only his forgiveness, but his thanks. Fr. Miguel knew that his sacrifice would bring his beloved Mexico back to Jesus.

Bravely, Fr. Miguel refused the offered blindfold and stood before the firing squad. Holding his arms spread wide like a cross, he cried out, "Long live Christ the King." Then, forgiving those who were putting him to death, he became a glorious martyr for the Faith. Even though it was forbidden, thousands of brave Catholics lined the street to say farewell to their brave priest as his body was taken to its burial. Bl. Miguel Agustin Pro, help me to bring others to Jesus!

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