

Hungarian Saints

Saint Mark, Stephen and Melchior the Kassa Martyrs



Saint Mark (1589 – 1619), Saint Stephen (1582 – 1619) and Saint Melchior (1584 – 1619) are the holy martyrs of Kassa. These three Holy Roman Catholics who were martyred 7 September 1619 in Kassa at the time of the revolt against the Habsburgs of Gabriel Bethlen. These three priests, a Croat, the other Hungarian and third Polish were sent to the city of Kassa whose population was predominantly Calvinist, to support the small community of Catholic faithful. Stephan Pongrácz and Melchior Grodecki were Jesuits and Mark Križin Canon of Esztergom. At the time of the revolts against the Habsburgs between 1604 and 1711, the city Kassa is often row side of the insurgents. In the fall of 1619, the insurgent soldiers occupy Kassa, they begin to persecute Catholics. By the torture the soldiers attempt to compel the three priests to renounce their Catholic faith. They remain firm in their faith. On 7 September 1619 they die as a result of the torture.

They were canonized in 1995, feast celebrated on September 7.