MORNING MEDITATION

Saturday, Eighth Week in Ordinary Time

There is nothing, absolutely nothing that "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8:31)

Sirach 51:12-20

Ben Sirach reflects on how he sought Wisdom from his younger days. True wisdom, he says, is the gift of God. This wisdom keeps your feet "on level path".

Desire, seek and pray for wisdom and nurture the gift of wisdom that God gives you.

Psalm 19

The Law of the Lord is perfect,
refreshing the soul;
The decree of the Lord is trustworthy,
giving wisdom to the simple.

Mark 11:27-33

A delegation of chief priests, elders and experts in the law came to Jesus and asked him about the source of his authority. They had hoped to catch him making some statement that could incriminate him. If he said he acted on his own authority, they could arrest him for being delusional and if he said he acted on God's authority they could arrest him on blasphemy. They thought, either way, they had him trapped.

Instead of answering their questions, Jesus confronted them with a set of his own questions. He asked them where the baptism of John the Baptist came from. If they said John's Baptism had divine origin, they would have to explain why they rejected him. If they said it was of human origin, they would have to fear the people who had accepted him as a martyr. Their answer was that they did not know. Jesus refused to answer misguided, stubborn people.

This excerpt challenges us to remain open and docile to the Holy Spirit; to remain open to accepting the truth as it is being revealed to us; to be honest in our search for truth; to be cautious of those who are misguided; to be aware of those who ask tricky, dishonest questions and to be fearless in the face oppositions.

Saint of the Day, May 3 – St. Charles Lwanga & Companions and 61 other saints are remembered this day.

Charles Lwanga was a member of the Baganda tribe, born on January 1, 1860 in the Kingdom of Buganda, the central and southern part of modern Uganda, and served as chief of the royal pages and later major-domo in the court of King Mwanga II of Buganda. He was baptized by Pere Giraud on November 15, 1885.

Catholic priests from the Missionaries of Africa arrived in Uganda around 1879 and began their missionary work, converting many to the Catholic Faith. A major barrier to the work of the missionaries was the ruler of Uganda, pagan King Mwanga. Mwanga himself practiced an immoral lifestyle and used his pages for his own pleasure. Charles Lwanga protected his fellow pages, aged 13 to 30, from the homosexual demands of the Bagandan ruler, Mwanga, and encouraged and instructed them in the Catholic faith

Mwanga did not want his subjects influenced by the Christian missionaries, and he was intent on finding Christian converts among his people to eliminate them. In November 1885, one of his subjects, a Catholic convert, Joseph Mkasa, admonished Mwanga for his immoral acts with the pages. This enraged Mwanga and Joseph was beheaded. Protestant missionaries were slaughtered, as well.

After Joseph's death, Charles Lwanga became the chief religion teacher and protector of the Christian pages. Six months later, instigators prodded the king to continue persecuting Christians and informed Mwanga that a page named Denis Sebuggwawa was teaching the Catholic religion to other pages. Brought to the Mwanga, Denis admitted that what was said about him was true. In an act of rage, the Mwanga picked up a spear and thrust it into his neck and then ordered the deaths of all Christian pages, catechists, and followers of Jesus.

Twenty- two Ugandans including Charles Lwanga were captured and began a 37-mile walk to the site of the execution. When they reached the place, all but three who were killed on the road were placed in a prison while the executioners prepared the site of the fire. Three days later, on Ascension Sunday, June 3, 1886, all were burned alive. They were canonized on October 18, 1964 in Uganda by Pope Paul

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