

MORNING PRAYER

Friday, Thirty-third Week in Ordinary Time

**Stand your ground trusting in the grace of God
and be steadfast under pressure, under adverse conditions!**

I Maccabees 4:36-37; 52-59

The Maccabee brothers won the revolution and celebrated their freedom from persecution. They constructed an altar of sacrifice, celebrated its dedication by offering holocausts and sacrifices of deliverance. All people gathered and praised God who had delivered them from persecution. And they decreed that this day of dedication should be observed every year as day of rejoicing.

Be grateful for your freedom. Remember, with gratitude, people who suffered and sacrificed for your freedom.

I Chronicles 29:10-12

**Blessed are you O Lord,
God of Israel, our father from eternity to eternity.
Yours, O Lord, are grandeur and power,
majesty, splendor and glory.**

Luke 19:45-48

Jesus cleanses the temple which had been turned into a marketplace. Place of worship had become place of abuse and exploitation, especially of the poor and the marginalized in the community. The house of God was being used to exploit the worshippers.

Jesus was moved with a passion for justice, honor, respect - for real worship, which means giving God God's worth and giving God's people their worth.

Reflect on being called to deeply respect and revere the temple of God – all that we know as the temple, the house of God; all that we know as God's dwelling place.

You are the temple of.....so is your brother and your sister.....respect, revere and honor yourself and your brother and your sister and that's a sure way of honoring God!

**Saint of the Day, November 24 - St. Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions
and 146 other saints are remembered this day.**

Andrew was born Trần An Dũng in 1795 in Vietnam, taking the name Andrew at his baptism (Anrê Dũng) and was ordained a priest on March 15, 1823. During persecution, Andrew Dũng changed his name to Lạc to avoid capture, and thus he is memorialised as Andrew Dũng-Lạc (Anrê Dũng Lạc).

Andrew Dung-Lac was one of 117 people martyred in Vietnam between 1820 and 1862. Members of the companions group gave their lives for Christ in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, and received beatification during four different occasions between 1900 and 1951. All were canonized during the papacy of Saint John Paul II.

Christianity came to Vietnam through the Portuguese. Jesuits opened the first permanent mission at Da Nang in 1615. They ministered to Japanese Catholics who had been driven from Japan. Severe persecutions were launched at least three times in the 19th century. During the six decades after 1820, between 100,000 and 300,000 Catholics were killed or subjected to great hardship. Foreign missionaries martyred in the first wave included priests of the Paris Mission Society, and Spanish Dominican priests and tertiaries.

In 1832, Emperor Minh-Mang banned all foreign missionaries, and tried to make all Vietnamese deny their faith by trampling on a crucifix. Like the priest-holes in Ireland during English persecution, many hiding places were offered in homes of the faithful. Persecution broke out again in 1847, when the emperor suspected foreign missionaries and Vietnamese Christians of sympathizing with a rebellion led by one of his sons. The last of the martyrs were 17 laypersons, one of them a 9-year-old, executed in 1862. That year a treaty with France guaranteed religious freedom to Catholics, but it did not stop all persecution.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs