

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Ninth Week in Ordinary Timer

Begin your day with gratitude, continue through the day with a blessing attitude and you will find serenity and peace.

2 Peter 1:2-7

God has given us the means and the grace for leading a holy, virtuous life.

This is reason enough to live a life of virtue and self-control.

This will lead us to perseverance and to the care of others in love and concern.

Psalm 91

**You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
Who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
Say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress,
My God in whom I trust."**

Mark 12:1-12

In this excerpt, we have the parable of the tenant farmers. This parable teaches us many things. Take a moment...prayerfully reflect on the following thoughts:

- We are trusted stewards of God's gifts. Be responsible! Be trustworthy!
- We are trusted to cultivate the gifts that God has given to us. How have you been cultivating the gifts that God has given to you?
- God has been gracious to us and so gifted us with all necessities. Be grateful! Be gracious! Share your gifts with others.
- Abuse of God's gifts brings disaster.
- Respect your gifts and the gifts of others – they are God-given!
- Use your gifts wisely and appreciate the gifts of others!

Saint of the day, June 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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