

MORNING MEDITATION

Wednesday, Ninth Week in Ordinary Time

**The self-controlled soul, who moves amongst sense objects,
free from either attachment or repulsion, he wins eternal peace.**

(Bhagavad Gita)

2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12

Paul begins this letter with a profound prayer: “May grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Christ Jesus our Lord be with you” “I thank God.... whenever I remember you in my prayer...night and day”. **Make this prayer your prayer today.**

He encouraged Timothy to “stir into flame the gift of God....and never be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord...” and to bear hardship for the Gospel...

Fan into flame the spark that is within you!

Palm 123

**To you, I lift up my eyes,
who are enthroned in heaven,
Behold, as the eyes of servants
are on the hands of their masters.....
So are our eyes on the Lord our God.....**

Mark 12:18-27

Mark tells us of another trick question that the Sadducees asked Jesus. Even a trick question became an opportunity to proclaim eternal truth: “God is the God of the living and not of the dead”. Jesus declared his Jewish ancestors to be alive with God.

Use every opportunity, even unpleasant ones, to give witness to truth.

The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection. The question they asked made the idea of the resurrection sound ridiculous. The response Jesus gave made the idea of the resurrection not only a reality but the idea of the absence of an afterlife even more ridiculous. God is the God of living persons and not of dead bodies. Living God is the God of living beings. Jesus used this opportunity to teach the Sadducees how wrong they were and to teach them that resurrection is a reality.

Eventually, Jesus would teach them and he teaches us today that he is the resurrection and the life....he who believes in him will never die.

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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