

Reflection for 3rd June Wednesday of week 9 ordinary time.

St Charles Lwanga and Companions

Dear brothers and sisters, the Holy Spirit that we receive is the Spirit of power, love and self-control. It is only with this Spirit that one can have a clear conscience to work for the establishment of united world of justice, peace and Love.

Today we commemorate Saints Charles Lwanga and his Companions. I invite you to meditate with me on a clear conscience.

The Uganda Martyrs, among whom we find Charles Lwanga, were people who were executed between 31 January 1885 and 27 January 1887. They were killed on orders of Mwanga II, the Kabaka (King) of Buganda. Saints Charles Lwanga and his Companions had a clear conscience in their faith in the God of Jesus and were ready to die than to betray God and their community of faith by renouncing their faith.

For all the times it happened that we chose and decided to please people in their selfish desires rather than to serve God for the restoration of a kingdom of justice, peace and joy, we confess and say: Kyrie eleison, Kriste eleison, Kyrie eleison.

Reflection on: 2 Timothy 1: 1-3. 6-12; Mark 12: 18-27

A clear conscience. Paul says to Timothy, "Night and day I thank God, keeping my conscience clear." Paul is proud and happy to have a clear conscience. True, Paul fought a good fight and kept the Faith. Now he is encouraging his true child in the faith, Timothy to do the same. He said to his child: "God's gift was not a Spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control"

Here, we can understand that a clear conscience is a conscience with the power and love of God, a conscience with self-control.

A clear conscience is a conscience which allows one to shut up, when one has nothing constructive to tell people.

A clear conscience is a conscience, which makes one be human and have compassion on a person who needs help in crying "I can't breathe", please, help!

A clear conscience is a conscience which, even in deep pain, speaks loud with love and hope: "Stop violence!!!; what are you doing?!; react peacefully, violence will resolve nothing!!!".

A clear conscience is a conscience which allows one to face and hug a person who suffers from human cruelty and cries for justice, peace and love.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Christian Faith is a treasure that we have to share with the world. This Faith calls for non-violence, it calls for love and self-control. Let us never be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord; let us bear the hardships for the sake of the Gospel of reconciliation and healing, relying on the power of God who has saved us and calls us to be holy."

If today we can we commemorate and celebrate Saints Charles Lwanga and Companions it is because they were able, with God's help, to fight a good fight, preaching the Gospel of love and forgiveness for the salvation of the world.

Dear brothers and sisters, the Spirit of God that we have been given is not a spirit of timidity.

Let each one, as much as he/she can, keep his/her conscience clear and despite all troubles and vicissitudes of life, proclaim with boldness: "God is Love"

Like Saint Charles Lwanga, we are all teachers and witnesses to Christian living by the examples of our own lives. We are all called upon to spread the word of God – the Gospel of reconciliation and healing, whether by word or deed.

By remaining courageous and unshakable in our faith during times of great moral, spiritual and physical temptation, we live as Christ lived. "God is love."