

Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

Wednesday, June 3, 2020 ~ St. Charles Lwanga and Companions



Readings: 2 Tim 1:1-3, 6-12; Psalm 123: 1b-2; Mk 12:18-27

Dear Parishioners:

A brief historical note: On this date, 1963, St. Pope John XXIII died. When he died it was newsworthy because he was the pope who convened the Second Vatican Council. When he died he earned about a page of news in TIME Magazine. He was succeeded by Pope Paul VI. When he died in 1978 the Union-Tribune Headline was "POPE PAUL DIES" and TIME Magazine did a whole section on him. He was succeeded by Pope John Paul I, who lived only 32 days. When he died the cover of TIME Magazine had two, empty red shoes with the Cover Story THE CHURCH IN SHOCK. He was succeeded by Pope John Paul II who garnered the largest papal funeral ever witnessed. Nations flew their flags at half staff and Heads of State (George W. Bush being one) and other notable dignitaries flew to the Vatican for his funeral. He was succeeded by Pope Benedict XVI (who resigned) who in turn was succeeded by Pope Francis who is a well known figure all over the world and whose ministry shows us the heart, the hands, the face of Christ. No matter the age, the Holy Spirit has brought us Successors to St. Peter who have filled the needs of the Church for the time. Human though they be, we Catholics pay special attention to them and their ministry as Vicar of Christ on earth. To do otherwise is to not be a Catholic. Period. So we are grateful to God for the great men He has raised to the teaching chair of Peter. Today, as we commemorate the martyrdom of St. Charles Lwanga and his companions we commemorate people whose faith in Christ gave them the courage to listen to what Christ as taught by the Church and remain faithful to it. Their only concern was to give witness to Jesus Christ in the world. What was the name of the King of Uganda who ordered their murder? No one knows. No one cares. Who remembers him with any honor? No one. However, those who remain loyal and faithful to Christ and the Church, as difficult as that might be at times, are the ones who earn the privilege to wear the crown of glory in God's Kingdom. Beware of those who would try to sway you away from Christ and the Church. Be sure to follow the true shepherd – not a wolf in sheep's clothing be it a professor, philosopher, politician or some other "religious" preacher who claims to have the truth. If Christ is not the central message, if fidelity to Christ's flock, the Church, is not encouraged – run away as fast as you can and find your comfort and peace in Him.

During this very difficult time in our nation's history we pray for justice and peace in our land. Let's also be careful not to jump to conclusions and condemn those who sincerely try to do what is right but find their efforts hindered by others whose only wish is to serve their self-centered opinions. This growing condemnation of the men and women of law enforcement, without distinction, is as wrong as the now jailed former police officer who is charged with killing George Floyd. Try living without the police and the law enforcement agencies who put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe and society from coming apart. We ought to be grateful to them. When you see someone in law enforcement, rather than criticize them and condemn them, go up and thank them for doing the job they have answered the call to do. Condemning all police officers because of the illegal actions of a few is like condemning all priests because of the very public sins of a few.

This week please keep in your prayers the men who will be ordained priests for the Diocese of San Diego this coming Friday: Rev. Manuel del Rio and Rev. Raymond Napuli. Also, please pray for those who will be ordained this coming Saturday as permanent deacons for service in our diocese: William Adsit, William Kazmierowicz, Jose Macias, Jose Maldonado, Jeffrey Penta, Manuel Bernal and Joh Roberts.

A Little Humor:

Shelby Metcalf, basketball coach at Texas A&M, recounting what he told a player who received four F's and one D: "Son, looks to me like you're spending too much time on one subject."

The preacher was wired for sound with a lapel mike, and as he preached, he moved briskly about the sanctuary, jerking the mic as he went. Then he moved to one side, getting wound up in the cord and nearly tripping before jerking it again. After several circles and jerks, a little girl in the third pew leaned toward her mother and whispered: "If he gets loose, will he hurt us?"

Riddle Me This:

Yesterday's Riddle: I used to be for hunting, now I'm just for fun; toss me out and I'll come back, I end where I begun. What am I? (Answer) A boomerang

AND Why didn't they play cards on the Ark? (Answer) Noah was standing on the deck!

Today's Riddle: In Philadelphia you can't take a picture of a man with an artificial leg. Why not? (Answer Tomorrow)

AND -- What animal could Noah not trust? (Answer Tomorrow)

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