

February 6, 2023



Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

Image by Christine Sponchia from Pixabay

TE DEUM

By Julie Mussché

"Those who sow in tears, shall reap in rejoicing."

PSALM 126:5

Reflection

As might have been mentioned in previous reflections, my early formation as a Catholic occurred while living in Japan and preparing for my First Communion and Confirmation. This included an introduction to a variety of saints, in part to assist in choosing my Confirmation Patron. As a side note, after much wrangling with my Catechism teacher, St. Catherine of Siena was elected as my patron. But I digress, it was also during this time that I was introduced to the Martyrs of Nagasaki.

This initiation was through a painting of the twenty-six martyrs hanging on a

grouping of crosses appearing both to be suffering and joyful. As a nine-year old, this image made a significant impression. Who were these martyrs dying in such a horrible way for the Faith?

As a result of St. Francis Xavier's evangelization ministry in Japan, thousands of people converted to Christianity. This was followed by the Franciscans introducing the Faith, and eventually, the growing number of conversions started to alarm the leadership in Japan. Consequently, Christianity was outlawed in Japan starting in the late 1500's and became further institutionalized during the Edo shogunate in the 1600's.

Efforts were made to extinguish Christianity and converts either went underground or paid the penalty of living out their beliefs publicly. Like other actions in the past, to stifle any notions of converting to or practicing the Faith, Christians were often tortured overtly as an example to others. Saint Paul Miki and twenty-five other Christians were marched 600 miles, tortured along the way, hung on crosses, and impaled with spears. It is said that as the Martyrs trekked to their place of execution, they sang *Te Deum*. It is also reported that Paul Miki preached as he was dying. Today celebrates the Memorial of Saint Paul Miki and Companions and Martyrs. Blessed feast day.



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For Pondering

- When has sorrow or struggle resulted from the practice of your Faith?
 - How has joy broken through the tears that were sown?
-

For Prayer

TE DEUM

*You are God: we praise you;
You are God: we acclaim you;
You are the eternal Father:
All creation worships you.*

*To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

*The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.*

*Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you:
Father, of majesty unbounded,
Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
And the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.*

*You, Christ, are the king of glory,
The eternal Son of the Father.*

*When you became man to set us free
You did not spurn the Virgin's womb.*

*You overcame the sting of death,
And opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.*

*You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come, and be our judge.*

*Come then, Lord, and help your people,
Bought with the price of your own blood,
And bring us with your saints
To glory everlasting.*

*Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance.
Govern and uphold them now and always.*

*Day by day we bless you.
We praise your name forever.
Keep us today, Lord, from all sin.
Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
Lord, show us your love and mercy;*

*For we put our trust in you.
In you, Lord, is our hope:
And we shall never hope in vain.*

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