

World Mission Meditation on the Saints

“All the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God”

- Isaiah 52:10

Leader: This celebration of World Mission encourages us to reflect on the great diversity within our Church and the strength of our unity in faith. And so we call upon five blessed saints, who represent the five parts of the world church, and ask them to intercede on behalf of their peoples, and the Universal Church.

Let us pray...

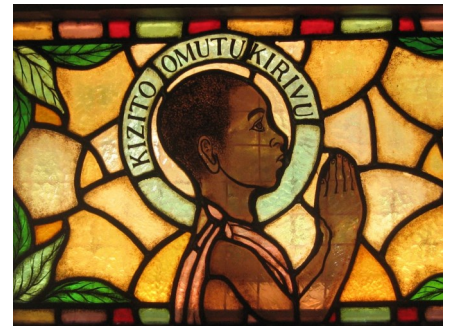
Lector 1: *Ambao ni hawa amevaa mavazi meupe? (Swahili)*
Who are these wearing white robes? -Revelation 7:13

St. Kizito and the Martyrs of Uganda,
we come to you asking for your prayers of intercession on behalf of all who suffer from the unjust exercise of authority. May you all who were so cruelly persecuted for your faith in Jesus Christ intercede for all who are oppressed, that they might be comforted by Divine Mercy and empowered by the gift and grace of fortitude. May justice be the goal of all people and may all disciples of Christ join together to work for change in the structures of sin that afflict our communities.

St. Kizito and companions,
all African Catholics rejoice with you in faith. May your example and intercession in Heaven obtain for the faithful abundant graces of perseverance, strength, and generosity. We ask you to protect the people of Uganda and all of Africa.

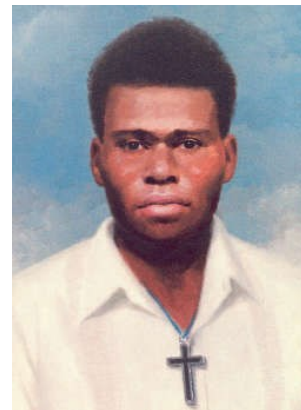
Lector 2: *Olgeta wari bilong yupela i ken tanim i go kamap amamas gen. (Pidgin)*
May your sadness be turned into joy. -John 16:20

Blessed Peter To Rot, the first blessed martyr of Papua New Guinea,
inspired by your faith in Christ
you were a devoted husband, a loving father
and a dedicated catechist known for your kindness,
gentleness and compassion.



Lector 2: Your witness to the Gospel inspired others
in very difficult situations,
because you lived the Christian life so purely and joyfully.
When your village was occupied during war
and the priests were imprisoned,
you became a spiritual leader for the people.

Blessed Peter, we will remember you always, for you show us the way,
especially the families and catechists in Papua New Guinea.
And may your intercession protect all the Pacific Islands.
You are an example of strong, self-less faith for all lay men and women
who preach the Word of God to His people.



Lector 3: *Ikea et-ho kàdy onea ne eghnà-ah ne Ongwe Ronwayè-ah yagh dèroh* (Mohawk)
The Son of Man came to serve -Mark 10:45

St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks,
you lived a simple life and remained faithful to Jesus despite persecution.
Your greatest wish was to know and to do what pleases God.
You lived a life radiant with faith and purity.
You have impressed us by the action of grace in your life,
in spite of the absence of external help
and by the courage of your vocation,
so unusual in your culture.
But with you, faith and culture enrich each other.

St. Kateri, may your example help us to live confidently where we are,
loving Jesus without denying who we are.
You are the protector of Canada and a strong Native American saint,
we entrust to you the renewal of the faith in the first nations and in all of the Americas.



Lector 4: *Karttarukkup putuppāṭṭaip pāṭuṅka!* (Tamil)
Sing a new song to the Lord -Ps 96: 1

St. Joseph Vaz, or as your people call you,
Sammana Swami, which means Angelic Father,
you give us an example of missionary zeal.
Though you came to Sri Lanka
to minister to the Catholic community,
you reached out to everyone,
leaving behind home, family,
and the comfort of familiar surroundings.
You responded to the call to go forth,
to speak of Christ wherever you were led.



Lector 4: St. Joseph, you offer the truth and the beauty of the Gospel in a multi-religious context, with respect, dedication, perseverance and humility. This is also the way for the followers of Jesus today. May your example inspire the people of Sri Lanka and throughout all of Asia. We are called to go forth with the same zeal, the same courage but also with your reverence for others, and a desire to share with them that word of grace which has the power to build them up.



Lector 5: *Main daya kee ichchha hai, tyaag nahin.* (Hindi)
I desire mercy, not sacrifice. -Matthew 9:13

St. Teresa of Kolkata,

you were a generous dispenser of Divine Mercy, making yourself available for everyone through the defense of human life, those unborn and those abandoned and discarded. You bowed down before those who were spent, left to die on the side of the road, seeing in them their God-given dignity. You also made your voice heard before the powers of this world, so that they might recognize their guilt for the crime of poverty that they created. Your mission to the peripheries is our model of holiness. You are so near to us, so tender and so fruitful, we call you “Mother Teresa.” Born in Albania but best known as a tireless worker of mercy in the slums of India, your intercession helps us to understand that our only criterion for action is gratuitous love. May the strength of your faith inspire many throughout Europe and the whole world. You used to say, “Perhaps I don’t speak their language, but I can smile.” Let us carry your smile in our hearts and give it to those whom we meet along our journey, especially those who suffer.

Leader: And so with the intercession of St. Kizito and companions of Uganda, Bl. Peter To Rot of Papua New Guinea, St. Kateri Tekakwitha of Canada, St. Joseph Vaz of Sri Lanka and St. Teresa of Kolkata of Albania, we ask God to bless all peoples on this World Mission Sunday. May the Spirit of Mission inspire us all to live as true followers of Jesus in whatever context or culture we find ourselves in.

May we too bring our sisters and brothers to know Christ more deeply every day as missionary disciples. We ask all this through Christ our Lord.
AMEN.