21 October

Blessed Diego Luis de San Vitores, Priest, and Saint Pedro Calungsod, Martyrs

Diego Luis de San Vitores (1627-1672) was born in Burgos Spain. At age thirteen he entered the Society of Jesus. After his ordination to the priesthood in 1651, he taught at the university, and preached retreats and missions. He volunteered for the missions, and was sent to the Philippines. In June 1668, he and five other Jesuits were sent to Guam, to establish the first Jesuit mission for the natives in the Ladrones (Marianas) Islands in Micronesia. – **Pedro Calungsod**, a teenager, was among the exemplary catechists chosen to accompany him as his sacristan, catechist and translator. Vitores and Pedro were brutally killed by an avenging medicine-man and recalcitrant aboriginals in Guam in April 1672.

From the Common of Martyrs.

Collect

O God, who raised up the Priest Blessed Diego Luis and the catechist Saint Pedro to evangelize the people of the Marianas Islands and united them by the same martyrdom, grant by their merits and intercession that we also, strong in faith, may persevere even to death.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

COMMON OF MARTYRS

Entrance Antiphon

Sp. Ex. [95]

Whoever wishes to come with me must labour with me, says the Lord, that following me in suffering he may also follow me in glory.

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, as we call to mind the sacrifice of the cross, we too may take up our cross and so be more fully united with Christ to whom your glorious Martyrs gave witness by their death. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

No slave is greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

Jn 15: 20

May the Sacrament we have received, O Lord, in commemoration of blessed N. (and N.) so expand our minds and hearts that we may set aside our own interests and seek only those of Jesus Christ. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

PREFACE I OF HOLY MARTYRS (JESUIT PROPER)

The fruitfulness of the blood of Martyrs

- V/. The Lord be with you.
- R/. And with your spirit.
- V/. Lift up your hearts.
- R/. We lift them up to the Lord.
- V/. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- R/. It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you have called many sons of Ignatius to the supreme witness of love so that, by the shedding of blood, they may enrich with new fruitfulness the saving work of the Church and encourage us, by their example, to follow the way of Christ our Lord.

Through him the host of Angels adores your majesty and rejoices in your presence for ever.

May our voices, we pray, join with theirs in one chorus of exultant praise, as we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts ...

PREFACE II OF HOLY MARTYRS (RM)

The wonders of God in the victory of the Martyrs

- V/. The Lord be with you.
- R/. And with your spirit.
- V/. Lift up your hearts.
- R/. We lift them up to the Lord.
- V/. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- R/. It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you are glorified when your Saints are praised; their very sufferings are but wonders of your might: in your mercy you give ardour to their faith, to their endurance you grant firm resolve, and in their struggle the victory is yours, through Christ our Lord.

Therefore, all creatures of heaven and earth sing a new song in adoration, and we, with all the host of Angels, cry out, and without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .