



COURAGE NOVENA TO THE
MARTYRS OF UGANDA

Courage Novena to the

Martyrs of Uganda

by an unknown Courage member

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*“What we are doing is not worthless.
Let us give our lives
for the sake of the Truth.”*

St. James Buzabaliawo, martyr

The Martyrs of Uganda

Thirty-one brave African Christians sacrificed their very lives as a result of their refusal to participate in their pagan king's acts of homosexuality.

Christianity came to Uganda from English Protestant missionaries and French Catholic missionaries. King Mutesa received them well and Christianity flourished. Resentful courtiers succeeded in getting the missionaries expelled.

In their absence, laymen instructed the converts and led the new Christians in prayer. Before he left, Father Lourdel recommended:

Pray every day. Read and reread the Bible and Catechism, gather for common prayer on Sunday, give instruction. He who takes the name of Christ must read the words and acts of Christ every day. He must resemble Christ, and like Christ, sacrifice himself and give up his life for Christ to save his brethren.

In a most marvelous way the Church flourished in adversity by the dedication of its laymen.

Andrew Kaggwa, Chief of Kigwa, was the royal bandmaster. Buglers and drummers gathered at his house to

learn their music and the Christian faith. James Buzabaliawo helped him. Matthias Malumba, chief of several villages, Luke Banabakintu from the canoe makers and Noah Mawaggali, pottery maker, gave their instructions also.

King Mwanga assumed the throne after his father died. The missionaries returned. The new king had developed an intense infatuation with homosexuality and believed that his royalty empowered him to follow these desires without hinderance among his pages and court personnel.

Mwanga found out quite quickly that Christianity condemned his pet pleasure and that the forewarned Christian pages were resisting his lustful advances and making themselves unavailable.

Joseph Mukasa, page-master, aged 26, was beheaded and burned when he reproached the king for his sinful conduct.

Dennis Ssebuggwawo, 16, was speared for teaching his fellow pages to pray. This touched off King Mwanga's angry confrontation with his pages and court personnel.

When many, including the King's personal bodyguard and the executioner's son, stepped forward, the King ordered them to be burned to death on a hill at Namugongo seventeen miles away.

On the death march, Pontian Ngondwe, 35; Gonzaga Gonza, 24; Athanasius Bazzekuketta, 20; Andrew Kaggwa, 30; Matthias Malumba, 50; and Noah Mawaggali, 35, were executed.

Ascension Thursday fell on June 3 in 1886. A pile of logs and straw was prepared, and the prisoners were rolled up in straw mats.

Charles Lwanga, 25; Mbaga Tuzinde, 17; Luke Banabakintu, 35; James Buzabaliawo, 27; Bruno Serunkuma, 30; Muggaga, 16; Kizito, 14; Mukasa Kiriwawanvu, 16; Gyaviira, 16; Adolphe Ludigo, 24; Anatole Kiriggwajjo, 20; Ambrose Kibuka, 16; and Achilles Kiwanuka, 17, were burned to death at high noon.

Onlookers expecting the screams of agony from the men being burned heard only the sound of the Our Father being recited together and the voice of one of the young men calling out, "Tell the Fathers we were faithful to the end."

Five young Anglican pages perished in the bonfire: Kiwanuka, Mukasa, Luangu, Dani Nukabanda and Mubi. Four adults died with them: Alexander Kadoko (brother to Bruno Serunkuma), Frederick Kizza, Noah Walukagga, and Albert Munyagonjo. They, too, were Anglicans.

This dreadful bonfire of burning Christians only caused the faith to grow stronger. Several months later, John Mary Muzeyi, 35, last of the martyrs, was beheaded.

King Mwangwa eventually lost this throne and ended his days diseased and miserable. The Christian community treasured their brave witness and testimony for Christ sealed in their blood, destroyed by fiery holocaust.

Today, a basilica covers the site of their martyrdom. In twenty years' time, 100,000 Christians were living in Uganda and 150,000 were under instruction.

In 1964 Pope Paul VI declared the twenty-two Catholic members of the group to be Saints of the Church and, in words of remarkable tribute and affection, paid honor to their Anglican co-martyrs whom, he believed, shared the same crown of glory in the presence of Jesus in heaven. Their document of canonization is the first Roman document to make specific acknowledgement of the saintly martyrdom of members of a communion other than its own.

Several years later, Paul VI made a personal visit to Uganda and prayed at the graves of all the men martyred.

Today, Christians of all denominations, striving to remain chaste amid the experience of same-sex attractions, and to win the freedom of life in Christ, look in awe at these

brave men who could have remained alive on this earth had they consented to their King's desires. Their powerful statement for the sacredness of chaste mature manhood encourages all people of good will now and in all the ages to come.

*“Tell the Fathers that we were
faithful to the end.”*

The cry of one of the Ugandan martyrs
from the pyre at Namugongo,
June 3, 1886.

Novena Prayers
to be said on each day

O God, come to my assistance
— **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
— **As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Alleluia.**

Hymn

James Russell Lowell

Once to every land and nation
comes the moment to decide.
In the strife of truth with falsehood,
for the good or evil side:
Some great cause, God's new Messiah,
offering each the bloom or blight,
And the choice goes on forever
twixt that darkness and that Light.

Then to side with truth is noble,
when we share her wretched crust,
E're her cause bring fame and profit,
and 'tis prosp'rous to be just;
Then it is the brave man chooses,
while the coward stands aside,
'Till the multitude make virtue
of the faith they had denied.

By the light of burning martyrs
Jesus' bleeding feet I track,
Toiling up new Calvaries ever
with the Cross that turns not back;
New occasions teach new duties,
time makes ancient good uncouth,
They must upward still and onward
who would keep abreast of Truth.

Though the cause of evil prosper,
'tis the truth alone is strong.
Though her portion is the scaffold
and upon the throne be wrong,
Yet that scaffold sways the future
and behind the dim, unknown,
Standeth God within the shadow
keeping watch above His own.

Antiphon:

**What we are doing is not worthless.
Let us give our lives for the sake of the truth.**

Psalm 31

How great is the goodness O Lord,
 which you have in store for those who fear you,
And which toward those who take refuge in you,
 you show in the sight of men.

Antiphon:

**What we are doing is not worthless.
Let us give our lives for the sake of the truth.**

You hide them in the shelter of your presence
 from the plottings of men;
You screen them within your abode
 from the strife of tongues

Antiphon:

**What we are doing is not worthless.
Let us give our lives for the sake of the truth.**

Blessed be the lord whose wondrous kindness
 He has shown me in a fortified city,
Once I said in my anguish

"I am cut off from your sight."

Yet you heard the sound of my pleading

When I cried out to you

Antiphon:

What we are doing is not worthless.

Let us give our lives for the sake of the truth.

Love the Lord, all you His faithful ones!

The Lord keeps those who are constant

But more than requites those who act proudly.

Antiphon:

What we are doing is not worthless.

Let us give our lives for the sake of the truth.

Take courage and be stouthearted,

All you who hope in the Lord.

Antiphon:

What we are doing is not worthless.

Let us give our lives for the sake of the truth.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and every shall be,
world without end. Amen, Alleluia.

Antiphon:

What we are doing is not worthless.

Let us give our lives for the sake of the truth.

Reading

Revelation 7:14-17

These are they who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. It was this that brought them before God's throne; day and night they minister in this temple; He who sits upon the throne will give them shelter. Never again shall they know hunger and thirst, nor shall the sun nor its heat beat down upon them. He will lead them to the springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear.

Responsory

The great day has come, in a moment we shall see Christ

— **The great day has come, in a moment we shall see
Christ.**

When the decisive moment comes, hold my hand and we
will die for Jesus together.

— **In a moment we shall see Christ.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

— **The great day has come, in a moment we shall see Christ.**

Gospel Canticle

Antiphon:

Let us stand fast together with our friends and we shall join them in heaven. Alleluia

+ Lord, now you let your servant go in peace;

your word has been fulfilled:

my own eyes have seen the salvation

which you have prepared in the sight of every people:

a light to reveal you to the nations

and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Alleluia.

Antiphon:

Let us stand fast together with our friends and we shall join them in heaven. Alleluia.

Prayer

Let us pray.

Lord,

as you gave your holy martyrs

courage to die rather than sin,

help us to give ourselves completely to you.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn to Our Lady, Mother of Martyrs

Be to me, O Virgin, nigh,

Lest in flames I burn and die

On that dreadful Judgment Day

Christ, when thou shalt call me hence

Be thy Mother my defense

By thy Cross my victory.

While my body here decays

May my soul thy goodness praise

Safe in paradise with thee. Amen.

From the Stabat Mater

Short Biographies and Prayers to Each of the Martyrs

St. Joseph Mukasa Master of the King's Household

Joseph devised all sorts of rules to protect the royal pages from King Mwangi. After he reproached the King for his sinful conduct, Joseph was beheaded and burned on November 15, 1885, aged 26.

Lord Jesus Christ, we honor your brave servant, St. Joseph Mukasa, who bore the name of your blessed foster father. He watched over the formation of the young men entrusted to his care and shielded them from the vices of their King. He was beheaded and burned for daring to tell his King that his conduct with the pages was very wrong.

Courageous martyr of Christ, plead for us this day that we, by the free choice of a chaste life, may be drawn into the love of Christ and be loyal to Him with all our heart.

St. Joseph Mukasa, pray for us.

St. Denis Ssebuggwawo
Royal Page

King Mwanga's closest advisors had mocked their master's weakness in the face of the new religion which condemned his pet pleasure. In his disgruntled mindset he returned to his palace. Great was his wrath when no one came to greet him. When the prime minister's son informed Mwanga that his pages were learning to pray from Dennis Ssebuggwawo, he sent for this slender, shy sixteen-year-old, and savagely speared him before them all, on May 25, 1886.

Lord Jesus Christ, we honor your brave page, St. Dennis Ssebuggwawo, whom his angry King speared to death for teaching his fellow pages how to pray.

Courageous martyr of Christ, plead for us this day, that we, by your powerful witness, may learn the value of sincere and humble prayer, and be drawn into the love of Christ and be loyal to Him with all our heart.

St. Dennis Ssebuggwawo, pray for us.

**St. Pontian Ngondwe
Soldier**

After spearing the teenager St. Dennis, King Mwangi ordered all his pages who prayed to step forward. When they did so he ordered them to be burned to death on the hill of Namugongo, seventeen miles away. The death march proceeded on its long journey and Pontian Ngondwe, soldier, and assistant catechist, called for his death at once. "I am a Christian and I will stay one, kill me now and be done with it!" Pontian was then stabbed to death. He was 35.

Lord Jesus Christ, we honor your brave soldier St. Pontian Ngondwe, who helped his comrades to learn well their Catholic faith and to live by what it stands for.

Courageous martyr of Christ, plead for us this day, that we, in learning the truth taught by our Catholic Church, and faithfully living according to the truth of our Church, may be drawn into the love of Christ and be loyal to Him with all our heart.

St. Pontian Ngondwe, pray for us.

St. Gonzaga Gonza
Royal Page

Gonzaga Gonza was a very sensitive and compassionate youth who had always gone out of his way to help anyone in suffering. Big irons had been fastened around his ankles and they cut deeply into him as he walked on. Gonzaga collapsed under the pain. He was speared through and through on an ant hill. He was 24.

Lord Jesus Christ, we honor your brave page St. Gonzaga Gonza, who reflected your compassion and mercy by going out of his way to help anyone in suffering.

Courageous martyr of Christ, plead for us this day that, mindful of the suffering of others and asking you to minister to us in our pain, and inspired by your manly gentleness, we may be drawn into the love of Christ and be loyal to Him with all our heart.

St. Gonzaga Gonza, pray for us.

**St. Athanasius Bazzekuketta,
Wardrobe and Treasure Master**

Athanasius Bazzekuketta had charge of the royal dressing room and treasury. He was a very peaceful, serene, and trustworthy young man. He was beheaded at one of the main crossroads to frighten any of the bystanders who might try to oppose the king. He was 20.

Lord Jesus Christ, we honor your brave wardrobe and treasure master, who was outstanding for his peacefulness, serenity, and sense of trustworthiness, St. Athanasius Bazzekuketta.

Courageous martyr of Christ, plead for us this day that, peacefully prizing more the garments of Christ's glory, serenely cherishing the infinite treasures of the Divine Redeemer, we may be found worthy of His trust and be drawn into the love of Christ and be loyal to Him with all our heart.

St. Athanasius Bazzekuketta, pray for us.

St. Andrew Kaggwa
Band Master

Andrew Kaggwa was the royal band master and friend of the King. He was also chief of a village. Andrew utilized his home as an instruction center where he taught his villagers and the royal musicians their Christian doctrine. Andrew was much hated by the prime minister, who condemned him to be cruelly mutilated, arm by arm, beheaded and hacked to pieces in view of the village where he had been a much loved and respected chief. He was 30.

Lord, Jesus Christ, we honor your brave band master, chief, and catechist, St. Andrew Kaggwa, who opened his home to all that they might hear your Holy Word and become members of your Church.

Courageous martyr of Christ, plead for us this day that, being drawn together in our diversity to produce the harmonious music of Christ, and following your example to let nothing separate us from the love of Christ, we may be drawn into the love of Christ and be loyal to Him with all our heart.

St. Andrew Kaggwa, pray for us.

St. Matthias Malumba
Catechist

Matthias Malumba had come to Christianity from the religion of Islam. He built a chapel near his home where all could gather for prayer. His was the cruelest execution: Matthias was dismembered piece by piece beginning with the hands and feet, and his flesh torn from him. He was left to die in the burning heat and died two days later. He was 50.

Lord, Jesus Christ, we honor your brave catechist who came to our faith from the religion of Islam, led your people in prayer, was torn apart, and left to die in the blazing sun.

Courageous martyr of Christ, plead for us this day that, we who labor in the heat of the noon-day sun and are assailed by the arrows of temptation may never be less than what we are called to be, and may be drawn into the love of Christ and be loyal to Him with all our heart.

St. Matthias Malumba, pray for us.

**St. Noah Mawaggali
Potter and Tanner**

Noah Mawaggali was a potter and tanner. After the death of St. Matthias Malumba he replaced him as leader of the Sunday prayer service. When it concluded, he waited for the king's men to come for him. They speared him and tied him to a tree. He was 35.

Lord, Jesus Christ, we honor your brave potter, tanner, and leader of prayer. St. Noah Mawaggali who proclaimed your Gospel, led your people in prayer, was speared and tied to a tree.

Courageous martyr of Christ, plead for us this day that, as your skillful fingers crafted the clay of the earth, so God's hand may shape our lives and destiny according to the design He has in mind for us; by worshipping Him in spirit and truth may we be drawn into the love of Christ and be loyal to Him with all our heart.

St. Noah Mawaggali, pray for us.

St. Charles Lwanga
Page Master

Charles Lwanga was a deeply committed Christian. He replaced St. Joseph Mukasa as page master. Charles continued to instruct the candidates for baptism. Some of these, sensing imminent danger, clamored for baptism despite the Church requirement that four years of preparation must be given. The hesitant missionaries eventually granted their request. Charles Lwanga was the first to be set ablaze, but he was roasted over a slow fire on June 3, 1886, being fastened to low stakes. He had baptized four prisoners.

Lord, Jesus Christ, we honor your brave page master St. Charles Lwanga, who supervised the royal pages, protected them from the malice of the King, and prepared them for the persecution to come. He was roasted to death for your sake.

Courageous martyr of Christ, plead for us this day that we, concerned for the safety of our souls and well prepared for the onslaughts to come, may be shielded from the malevolence of the archenemy and be drawn into the love of Christ and be loyal to Him with all our hearts.

St. Charles Lwanga, pray for us.

St. Mbaga Tuzinde
Royal Page

Mbaga Tuzinde was a page and son of the chief executioner. His father pleaded with him to quit the group and save his life, but Mbaga refused repeatedly, saying, "I want to die for God!" He was 17.

Lord, Jesus Christ, we honor your brave page St. Mbaga Tuzinde, who could have spared his life had he heeded the pleadings of his father to quit the Christian faith.

Courageous martyr of Christ, son of the chief executioner himself, plead for us this day that, having made appropriate choices to live our lives for God, we may be prepared for the moment when God calls us home to himself, and be drawn into the love of Christ and be loyal to Him with all our heart. Amen.

St. Mbaga Tuzinde, pray for us.

St. Luke Banabakintu
Canoe Maker

Luke Banabakintu was a canoe maker and had been taught the Our Father already by the Protestant missionaries. He converted to the Catholic faith and became one of the assistant catechists. He was burned to death June 3, 1886. He was 35.

Lord, Jesus Christ, we honor your brave canoe maker and catechist St Luke Banabakintu whom you chose to help build the ship of your Church in Africa by his faithful and fearless instruction of the converts.

Courageous martyr of Christ, consumed by the flames of this earth, plead for us this day that, remaining loyal and faithful to the teachings of our Holy Catholic Church, we may become, like you, it's builders and helpers, and be drawn into the love of Christ and be loyal to Him with all our heart.

St. Luke Banabakintu, pray for us.

St. James Buzabaliawo
Cymbal Player

James Buzabaliawo was a cymbal player and led that section of the royal band. He had a very lively and joyful personality. His words of encouragement constantly supported his comrades: "What we are doing is not worthless. Let us give our lives for the sake of Christ." James was burned to death on June 3, 1886. He was 27.

Lord, Jesus Christ, we honor your brave cymbal player St. James Buzabaliawo, who constantly encouraged his comrades for their steadfast perseverance, that they would not die in vain.

Courageous martyr of Christ, consumed in the fire of this earth, plead for us this day that, finding our joy in Christ and our liveliness in living Christ's life, we may more profoundly realize that in so doing, our course of action is of the greatest worth and be drawn into the love of Christ and be loyal to Him with all our heart.

St. James Buzabaliawo, pray for us.

**St. Bruno Serunkuma,
Royal Weapon Master**

Bruno Serunkuma was the guardian of the royal armory and master of the King's weapons. He was also the personal bodyguard of King Mwangi. When he was offered a drink of banana wine on the way to execution he refused. "We are going to heaven ... a fountain fed by many springs that will never dry up. When we are gone, others will rise to take our place." Bruno was 30 years old. He and his brother, one of the Anglicans, was burned to death June 3, 1886.

Lord, Jesus Christ, we honor your brave weapon master, St. Bruno Serunkuma, who on this earth guarded the weapons of an unworthy master and served as his bodyguard.

Courageous martyr of Christ, consumed in the fire of this earth, plead for us in this day, that being armed with every spiritual weapon, we may be ever on guard against the archenemy of our soul and his mirages of delusion. May we arrive with you at that eternal fountain of heaven that never dries up and be drawn into the love of Christ and be loyal to Him with all our heart.

St. Bruno Serunkuma, pray for us.

St. Muggaga
Royal Page

Muggaga was drawn to the Catholic faith through the example of the Christians he lived with. However, he decided to take his classes secretly at night, and was baptized privately at night. When Mwangi ordered all the pages who prayed to step forward, it was a great surprise to his Christian comrades who were unaware of his classes and baptism. Muggaga strongly stated that he would never deny his faith and that he had never given in to the King's many unchaste advances toward him. He was burned to death June 3, 1886. Muggaga was 16 years old.

Lord, Jesus Christ, we honor your brave page St. Muggaga who, like Nicodemus of the Gospel, secretly studied the truths of our faith by night and cooperated with your grace to never deny his faith and to always maintain his manly integrity.

Courageous martyr of Christ, consumed in the flames of this earth, plead for us this day that, never denying the faith and the promises of our Baptism, we may be given the grace to never weaken in occasions of allurement or temptation, and we may be drawn into the love of Christ and be loyal to Him with all our heart.

St. Muggaga, pray for us.

**St. Kizito,
Sportsman, Wrestler, Swimmer**

Kizito was 14 years old and the youngest of the royal pages. He was well liked, a good sportsman, wrestler, and swimmer. When he saw his fellow page St. Denis Ssebuggwawo speared to death by King Mwanga, he clung to St. Charles Lwanga. "Don't worry Kizito," St. Charles said, "when the decisive moment comes hold my hand and we'll die for Jesus together." None of the missionaries would baptize him despite his insistence because they thought him too young. St. Charles Lwanga baptized him in prison. Kizito encouraged his companions: "Let us say the Our Father and suffer bravely." He was burned to death June 3, 1886.

Lord, Jesus Christ, we honor your brave page who excelled in sportsmanship, wrestling, and swimming, and won the crown after fighting the good fight and running the race.

Courageous martyr of Christ, youngest of them all and consumed by the fire of this earth, plead for us this day that, by fighting the good fight and bravely running the race, we may overcome all fear, and as true athletes of Christ, receive His crown of everlasting glory, and be drawn into the love of Christ and be loyal to Him with all our heart.

St. Kizito, pray for us.

**St. Mukasa Kiriwawanvu,
Guestmaster and Jester**

Mukasa Kiriwawanvu was very happy-go-lucky and very much the court jester. He had charge of receiving the King's guests. He had been best friend to his fellow page Gyaviira, but in an argument clobbered him with a stick and was put in jail. He had not yet received baptism but suffered along with the Christians, and so received baptism of blood. Mukasa was 16. He was burned to death on June 3, 1886.*

Lord, Jesus Christ, we honor your brave guest master and court jester, St. Mukasa Kiriwawanvu, who, in a moment of human weakness fell beneath the pressure of anger and beat his fellow page with a stick and was imprisoned.

Courageous martyr of Christ, consumed by the fire of this earth, plead for us this day that, when moments of human weakness override the desires of our words or action we later regret, we may be led to peaceful resolution of our conflicts and be drawn into the love of Christ and be loyal to Him with all our heart.

St. Mukasa Kiriwawanvu, pray for us.

* "The Church has always held the firm conviction that those who suffer death for the sake of the faith without having received Baptism are baptized by their death for and with Christ. This *Baptism of blood*, like the *desire for Baptism*, brings about the fruits of Baptism without being a sacrament" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1258).

**St. Gyaviira,
Messenger**

Gyaviira was a messenger for King Mwanga. Gyaviira very highly valued his chastity, he was plunged into sadness when his best friend was sent to prison for beating him up. When Gyaviira saw Mukasa Kiriwawantu on the road to execution he ran to him, and they shook hands as a sign of forgiveness. "Let us both die for Christ." He was seventeen. He was burned to death June 3, 1886.

Lord, Jesus Christ, we honor your brave messenger St. Gyaviira, who highly prized his personal chastity and integrity. He not only forgave the violence done upon him in anger by his best friend but joined him in martyrdom.

Courageous martyr of Christ, consumed by the fire of this earth, plead for us this day that, cherishing our own personal chastity and generously forgiving all who have wronged us we may never hold a grudge and thus be drawn into the love of Christ and be loyal to Him with all our heart.

St. Gyaviira, pray for us.

**St. Adolph Ludigo,
Nobleman**

Adolph Ludigo was a young nobleman who often joined the Christians at prayer. He too encouraged the others on the way to their execution with these words: "The great day has come. In a moment we shall see Christ!" He was burned to death June 3, 1886. Adolph was 24.

Lord, Jesus Christ, we honor your brave nobleman St. Adolph Ludigo, who attended Christian services with great devotion and encouraged his comrades to persevere to the end.

Courageous martyr of Christ, consumed in the fire of this earth, plead for us this day that, participating devoutly in the worship of God and going out from that worship to love and serve the Lord, we may come to that day upon which we too will see Christ. May we be drawn into the love of Christ and be loyal to Him with all our heart.

St. Adolph Ludigo, pray for us.

St. Anatole Kiriggwajjo
Royal Page

Anatole Kiriggwajjo was very gentle and mild. He had turned down a very high position at court because it would expose him very frequently to the King's uncontrollable lust. "Let us stand fast together with our friends," said Anatole, "and we shall join them in heaven." He was burned to death on June 3, 1886. He was 20.

Lord, Jesus Christ, we honor your brave page, St. Anatole Kiriggwajjo who was manly enough to turn down a very high position in the royal palace because it would expose him to the irrepressible seductions of his King. He chose to stand fast with his comrades and with them to prefer your palace as his true home.

Courageous martyr of Christ, consumed in the flames of this earth, plead for us this day that, refusing the seductions of this world, we too may stand fast with our friends and join them in heaven and be drawn into the love of Christ and be loyal to Him with all our heart.

St. Anatole Kiriggwajjo, pray for us.

**St. Ambrose Kibuka,
Royal Page, Drummer**

Ambrose Kibuka was a royal page. He burned the pagan fetishes given to him by his parents for good luck. Ambrose kept close to his Christian cousin Kiwanuka and was his companion in martyrdom. Ambrose was also a drummer. He was 16. He was burned to death on June 3, 1886.

Lord, Jesus Christ, we honor your brave drummer, St. Ambrose Kibuka who destroyed the fetishes of paganism and chose instead to cling to your Holy Cross.

Courageous martyr of Christ, consumed in the fire of this earth, plead for us this day that, rejecting the vain fetishes of our time that promise of good luck and leave in their wake a consistent path of destruction, we too may choose your holy Cross, endure its pain, and participate in its victory, and be drawn into the love of Christ and be loyal to Him with all our heart.

St. Ambrose Kibuka, pray for us.

St. Achilles Kiwanuka
Royal Page

Achilles Kiwanuka was a royal page and cousin of St. Ambrose Kibuka. Following the example of his cousin, he likewise burned his pagan fetishes and became a Christian. When his parents pleaded with him not to become Christian and be killed, he replied, "Even if they kill me, I will not give up my Catholic faith". Achilles was 17 and was burned to death on June 3, 1886.

Lord, Jesus Christ, we honor your brave page St. Achilles Kiwanuka, who destroyed the last vestiges of his pagan past and resisted the urging of even his parents to return to it, and remained steadfast to the end.

Courageous martyr of Christ, consumed in the flames of this earth, plead for us this day that, rejecting anything that would stand between ourselves and Jesus Christ, we may remain steadfast in our faith to the end. May we be drawn into the love of Christ and be loyal to Him with all our heart.

St. Achilles Kiwanuka, pray for us.

St. John Mary Muzeyi
Royal Counselor

Despite the dreadful bonfire, the Christian faith continued to grow stronger. Several months later John Mary Muzeyi, one of the King's former counselors, a Christian, returned to the royal palace. The prime minister got rid of him secretly, had him beheaded and cast into a pond. He was 35.

Lord, Jesus Christ, we honor your brave royal counselor, St. John Mary Muzeyi, who maintained his devoted service to you despite all dangers and perils that threatened him.

Courageous martyr of Christ, plead for us this day that, enlightened by the counsels of Christ to cope with the false advice of this world, we may be drawn to the love of Christ and be loyal to Him with all our heart.

St. John Mary Muzeyi, pray for us.

The Anglican Martyrs

The beginning of this bitter struggle of King Mwanga with the Christians was the murder of the Anglican Bishop Hennington, who had come on visitation. In vain did St. Joseph Musaka plead with the King to spare his life.

In the blazing bonfires of June 3, 1886, there perished five Anglican royal pages: Kiwanuka, Mukasa, Luangu, Dani Nnakabanda, and Mubi

With these royal pages suffered these adults: Alexander Kadoko, Bruno Serunkuma's brother, Frederick Kizza, Noah Walukagga, and Albert Munyagabanjo

Pope Paul VI said in his homily at the canonization of the Uganda martyrs:

“Nor must we forget those members of the Anglican Church who also died for the name of Christ.”

Let us remember them in silent prayer.

An Ancient Eastern Hymn to Martyrs

Let us now our voices raise: Wake the day with gladness!
God himself to joy and praise turns our human sadness!
Joy that martyrs won their crown, open'd heav'ns bright
portal,
When they laid the mortal down for the life immortal!

Never flinched they from the flame, from the torment never;
Vain the tyrants' sharpest aim, vain each fierce endeavor!
For in faith they saw the land decked in all its glory,
Where triumphant now they stand with the victors' story!

Up and follow, Christian men! Press through toil and
sorrow;
Spurn the night of fear and then, O the glorious morrow!
Who will venture on the strife; who will first begin it?
Who will grasp the land of life? Warriors up and win it!

trans. John Mason Neale. 1862

The Five Goals of Courage

- 1 To live chaste lives in accordance with the Roman Catholic Church's teaching on homosexuality.
- 2 To dedicate our entire lives to Christ through service to others, spiritual reading, prayer, meditation, individual spiritual direction, frequent attendance at Mass, and the frequent reception of the sacraments of penance and of the Holy Eucharist.
- 3 To foster a spirit of fellowship in which all may share thoughts and experiences and so ensure that no one will have to face the problems of homosexuality alone.
- 4 To be mindful of the truth that chaste friendships are not only possible but necessary in a chaste Christian life and to support one another in forming and sustaining them.
- 5 To live lives that may serve as good examples to others.



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