



CHRISTIAN WITNESSING NOT WITHOUT SUFFERING

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ABUJA, NIGERIA -

Christians have been called upon to be ready to suffer, if they want to be true witnesses of Christ and reach out with the good news of the Gospel. The call was made by Rev. Fr. George Ehusani, the Chief Executive Officer of Lux Terra Leadership Foundation, in his homily at the celebration of the Mass for the 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time of the Year of the Church, at the Lux Terra Foundation Church, Apo, Abuja; on Sunday, June 21, 2020. Using several references from both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible to buttress his point, Fr Ehusani stated that all those who have witnessed to God suffered, but at the end they gained life everlasting. Using the life of Prophet Jeremiah and other prophets, as well as those of the apostles and saints to emphasize his point, Fr. Ehusani stated: "When you give witness to the truth you are in danger. You cannot speak the truth and be free."

Pointing out that anyone who wants to live the life of this world will have to compromise,

Fr. Ehusani stated: “You cannot witness to Christ and enjoy life; because if you are for Christ you are in the world but not of the world. He added: “When you give witness to the truth, you are in danger; you must therefore be courageous. Living the life of the world, makes us to compromise our witnessing to Christ.”

The former Secretary General of the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria (CSN) noted: “The Journey of life is not an easy one and full of thorns. It is not an easy road, there are trials and troubles and many are the dangers we meet.” He however added that if we are fearless and courageous in witnessing to the truth and the Gospel: “The Saviour is with us and his presence gives us joy every day. Jesus guards and keeps us so that nothing can harm us.”

Noting that the disciples who had trust in Christ always faced their persecutors with awesome; the Lux Terra Leadership Foundation Chief Executive Officer stressed that “to have courage is to be willing to look unflinchingly at catastrophic circumstances and muster the will to overcome the fear, so that fear does not push one into conformity, complacency and cowardice”. The homilist decried that preachers of Christianity of prosperity without cross or suffering saying that they are deceitful about Christian witnessing and the reality of suffering which Christ himself spoke about. He described

the notion and actions of these prosperity gospel preachers who buy jets with peoples' money as an abuse and grand illusion.

Father Ehusani, while condemning the increase in the wave of rape and other criminal activities in the country, noted that these vices are manifestations of how evil the world is becoming. He however, noted that Jesus Christ predicted these in the Gospels of Luke and Mark when he stated that to be bearers of the Word of God means to suffer because the Word encounters hostilities; adding that the Word is light but the people of the world prefer darkness. The Lux Terra Leadership Foundation founder noting that being a whistle blower in the case of rape could be dangerous declared: "The just one finds himself operating in a world of sin and debauchery; we are in a world of evil. Some of those who rape others, if they know you are going to be a whistle blower and expose them, they could kill you."

Describing sin as the manifestation of the absence of God in our lives, Fr. Ehusani urged the faithful to trust in Christ who has admonished us to be fearless and courageous in witnessing to the Word of God. Stating that good religion makes us fearless while bad religion increases fear, Fr. Ehusani assured them that if they go out in the name of God, they should not worry because God assures of ultimate vindication He added that to be a witnessing Church, we must be willing to suffer even to the point of death; adding that

“grace received comes with a cost.” Fr. Ehusani’s homily was premised on the catechesis of witnessing to Christ and suffering for the faith.