

The Pray More Advent Retreat

Inspiring talks to help you
prepare to celebrate the
birth of our Lord,
Jesus Christ



Why We Celebrate So Many Martyrs at Christmas

by Stephen Beale

Reflective Questions

“The law of the Incarnation is a law of suffering. Our Blessed Lord was the man of sorrows, and by suffering, He redeemed the world. His passion was not a mystery detached from the rest of His life, but only the fitting and congruous end of it. Calvary was not unlike Bethlehem and Nazareth. It exceeded them in degree; it did not differ from them in kind. The whole of the Three-and-Thirty years was spent in consistent suffering, though it was of various kinds, and not of uniform intensity.”

-- Frederick William Faber

- Even though it is a somber and tragic thing that many martyrs had to die, their feast days also give us reason to celebrate their birth into Heaven. Similarly, even though we each carry a cross, it is possible to be joyful while carrying it. Think of how your cross, whatever it may be, is bringing you closer to Jesus, and ultimately, closer to Heaven. The next time that your cross is particularly painful, try to remember how God is allowing it to bring you closer to Him. Have you seen God’s hand in your suffering in the past, and why He may have allowed it to happen so that you could be brought closer to Him?
- Christ was born here on earth so that we can be born again into Heaven and have eternal life. Think of this Advent as a time to prepare for that birth -- your birth into Heaven. What do you need to do to prepare to enter Heaven?