

Tuesday Reflection 11th March 2021

Last Tuesday we were commemorating those prepared to die for their beliefs, while not forgetting other victims of oppression and persecution.

Persecution and oppression raise the question of what causes some groups of people to assume that they have the right or justification to maltreat others.

We humans have the ability to analyse and to categorise. This is an indispensable gift when it comes to understanding and working with the world around us - when God appointed our first parents as stewards of His Creation, he charged them with naming all the plants and animals (and presumably the minerals as well).

Unfortunately we do not stop at quantitative and qualitative analysis, but we start using our analysis as an instrument of control and proceed to evaluate, to see some things as better/more useful than others, which are then classified as 'inferior', and as such not so worthy of our respect - but we are doing this from a very selfish point of view.

This is where we part company with God; remember that when God created the world and everything in it, "He saw that it was good". As Christians, we are called to see "with the eyes of Christ", i.e. with the eyes of love. When we start seeing things as "bad", we are judging them and no longer seeing them as He sees them. We are no longer seeing them with loving eyes - and, what is worse - we then assume the right to treat them badly and not worthy of our respect.

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