

**THE HOMILY OF POPE JOHN PAUL II DELIVERED ON OCTOBER
18,1987 AT THE VATICAN DURING THE CANONIZATION RITE OF
BLESSED LORENZO RUIZ AND HIS COMPANION MARTYRS IN
NAGASAKI**

" Today's canonization of Blessed Lorenzo Ruiz and his companions, martyred in and around Nagasaki between 1633 and 1637, constitutes an eloquent confirmation of these words. Sixteen men and women bore witness, by their heroic sufferings and death, to their belief in the message of salvation in Christ which has reached them after being proclaimed from generation to generation since the time of the Apostles.

In their sufferings, their love and imitation of Jesus reached its fulfilment and their sacramental configuration with Jesus, the one Mediator, was brought to perfection.

These holy martyrs', different in origin, language, race and social condition, are united with each other and with the entire People of God in the saving mystery of Christ, the Redeemer.

The martyrs' message of supreme fidelity to Christ speaks to Europe, with its common Christian foundation laid by Apostles Peter and Paul -Europe, which has been a seedbed of missionaries for two thousand years.

It speaks to the Philippines, which was the place of immediate preparation and strengthening in faith for eleven of the new Saints - the Philippines, which, as I remarked on the occasion of the martyrs' Beatification in Manila in 1981, from being evangelized is called to become an evangeliser, in the great work of bringing the Gospel to the peoples of Asia.

" May this task of evangelisation begin in Philippine families, following the example of Lorenzo Ruiz, husband and father of three children, who first collaborated with the Dominican Fathers in Manila, and then shared their martyrdom in Nagasaki, and who is now the first canonized Filipino saint.

" The Holy Martyrs speak to the Church in Japan, particularly to the Archdiocese of Nagasaki, to the Church in Taiwan and in Macao and to all Christ's followers in Asia: may the example and intercession of the new Saints help to extend Christian truth and love throughout the length and breadth of this vast continent¹¹

" The great Dominican Family, and in particular the Province of the Holy Rosary, which celebrates the Fourth Centennial of its foundation, receives today, with legitimate pride, among its saints these martyrs, some of whom were especially associated to the Colegio de Santo Tomas de Manila. This center of learning, today a University, like other meritorious ecclesiastical institutions, has contributed in a notable manner to the implantation and development of the Church in the Far East.

The missionaries who are canonized today speak to the faithful in this World Day of Prayer for the Missions and exhort them to reawaken their missionary conscience. The new Saints should be our models in following the call of God with total surrender."

Extract from Rev. Jose Maria S. Luengo "Lorenzo Ruiz" The Filipino Protomartyr in Nagasaki.