

Martyrs of Faith

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Toronto-Canada
June 04, 2007

The just perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart, and men of mercy are taken away, because there is none that understandeth; for the just man is taken away from before the face of evil.

Let peace come, let him rest in his bed that hath walked in his uprightness. Isaiah 57:1-2

(Verses said by His Beatitude Mar Emmanuel the Third Delly in addressing the attendants of mass held for the Martyrs of Faith June 04, 2007 in Karemles/Mosul/Iraq.)

The Christian Iraqis all over the world has received with great grief and deep sadness the news of assassinating Father Ragheed Genni, pastor of the Holy Spirit Chaldean Catholic Church in the city of Al-Mosul in Iraq and three of the Church's deacons (Basman Yousif Dawood, Wahid Hanna Isho and Gassan Isam Bidawed) after ending the celebration of the Holy Eucharist for evening mass in their Church. At 6:30 pm on Sunday June 03, 2007, a group of armed gunmen blocked Father Ragheed's car who was



The Martyr Rev. Ragheed Genni

accompanied by the three deacons and a wife of one of the deacons, freeing the woman the gunmen opened fire on the remaining four and killed them immediately, later the car was planted with explosives in order to kill more innocent people in the civilian neighboring area where this took place and at the same time prevent others to approach the murdered bodies.

The arms of injustice reached out this time to Father Ragheed who was known for his unlimited love to his faith, country and the people. Father Ragheed who was born in

1972, graduated from University of Al-Mosul department of Civil Engineering in 1993-1994 but enrolled immediately after that in the Chaldean Catholic seminary in Baghdad. Later Father Ragheed was sent to accomplish his higher education in Rome, Italy. Later he served as a priest in few Chaldean Churches in Europe especially in Sodertalia-Sweeden, where he gained the love of all parishioners especially the youth.



Martyrs of Faith – June 03, 2007

Obeying the desire of the fathers of the Chaldean Church in Iraq and pushed by devotion to his country and people, father Ragheed returned to Iraq amidst very severe situation to bear the hardship imposed on Iraqi people in general and on Christian in specific, and was appointed as a pastor for the Holy Spirit Church in Al-Mosul. In Holy Spirit Church, Father Ragheed succeeded in attracting people to the Church and soon became spiritual father for all of them, the youth surrounded him, the elders supported him and the children loved him all that has made his Church a fountain of love and mercy to everyone with right conscience.

Also in this attack three young deacon whom, with zeal, were escorting Father Ragheed to protect the latter's life got killed. Those who committed this crime thought they would stop everyone who serves the Church and defends his faith to become a splendor of light for others; they thought would be able to stop your voice forever our dear father but they forgot that their brainless followers along all ages tried to stop the voice of the Truth and failed. The voice of the Truth shall remain echoing in all minds forever. Coward people can kill the body only, they are weird, arid and fruitless plants, which will "be taken away, bundled together and thrown in the everlasting fire where nothing but crying and grinding of the teeth".

We O' dear father with your family, relatives and friends, whom are saddened and wounded by your disastrous death, feel relieved as we raise our heads to the highest and watch you with your brothers deacons in the arms of the Holy Mother whom you loved and adored in your life and She loved you abundantly.

We watch you O' dear father as you enter the Divine Throne in a Holy Procession surrounded by all saints and martyrs of the Christian faith.

We watch you O' dear father as you are carried on the wings of Al-Karobeem and Al-Sarafeem where angels of the Lord receive you "with the sound of trumpet, with psaltery and harp " (psalm 150:3)

We watch you O' dear father as you are taken to the Divine Mystery to whom you devoted your life.

Blessed is your uniting with the Divinity
O' dear father.

Blessed is your filling with love of God as you echoing St. Augustine by saying, "nothing can fill the heart of human being but the love of God",

Blessed are you O' dear father for you have rejected the earthy richness to get the heavenly consecration,

Blessed are you o' dear father for you have gave everything on earth to buy the unseen precious stone,

Blessed are you O' dear father for the great



Holy Farewell Procession on Earth



Fathers of the Chaldean Congress holding prayers for the souls of Martyrs of Faith

love that you bestowed upon all who knew you.

Blessed are you O' dear father and your deacons (*the Stephens*) as you are asking the father to forgive those who killed you.

Blessed are we, who loved you with your family, relatives and friends for today we gained another saint in heaven,

Blessed is our wounded Chaldean Catholic Church who offered this sacrifice on the steps of Mar Shamon Bar Sabaei for the sake of the True Faith.

We Chaldean all over the world are invited to be united together in prayers and thoughts along with fathers of our Church, held masses and spiritual meditations in all Churches for the souls of father Ragheed and the martyr deacons and for the intention of the Christian in Iraq, we are ought at this time of suffering to denounce all sorts of public celebration and carnivals for forty continuous days.

Finally, we offer our condolences to our Patriarch Mar Emmanuel the Third Delly, and His Grace Bishop Polus Faraj Raho and to the family of father Ragheed and families of the deacons and their relatives and friends.

Glory to Almighty God.

Glory to the Chaldean Catholic Church.

Glory to our martyrs and saints.

And liberty to our Country Iraq from all invaders and terrorists.



**His Beatitude Mar Emmanuel the Third Delly
Patriarch of the Chaldean Church during Holy Mass
held for the souls of Martyrs of Faith.**