Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – December 2021

Wednesday December 8, 2021



France: Nanterre

A procession of thirty Christians for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception was attacked by Muslim youths. Two elderly people were knocked to the ground, one required stitches for a head injury. A catechumen who posted an account of the attack on social media was forced to delete his account after receiving numerous insults and threats

Deacon Jean-Marc Sertillange (said "...shortly after 7 p.m., and while we had advanced only a few hundred meters, a band of unknown people on the path verbally attacked us at the time of the first prayer station...They then threw water on us, then grabbed one of the torches which they then threw in our direction", filed a police report)

Nicolas Philippe (tweeted: "For this occasion, a short procession of 1 kilometer was organized in the evening, carrying the statue of the Blessed Virgin and singing songs to the Virgin. After only 100 meters, at our first stop, we were called names by passers-by. Then several young men began to surround us, about ten in all, giggling as they insulted us. Then the giggling was followed by increasingly violent insults 'children of whores', 'gang of whores', then more and more Christianophobic words 'This is not a cathedral', 'You are Kuffars, infidels', 'Get lost, this is not your country'...The priest is the first to be attacked because he is leading the procession. He is spat at and then cold water is poured on him. Tension rises and the group that has surrounded us makes contact. 'wallah on the Quran I will cut your throat'. The priest explains that it is a procession dedicated to the Virgin. Nothing to do: 'This is the land of Allah, f*** off''. More words are spoken in Arabic while several parishioners are violently pushed around by the youths. We were followed almost during the entire procession and insulted with the foulest possible language, which we drowned out with chants to the Virgin. Finally, calm returned only when we returned to the church where a police patrol was waiting for us because they had been called...the parishioners were shocked by this inexplicable violence against a simple procession that was taking place in a peaceful atmosphere, had been authorized by the prefecture and was following a traditional route. There was hatred in their eyes without anyone being able to explain it in any way. Honestly, the atmosphere is very stressful and it is becoming more and more complicated, even dangerous, to be a Christian in certain areas...")

 $\frac{https://www.lefigaro.fr/faits-divers/sur-le-coran-je-vais-t-egorger-a-nanterre-des-catholiques-en-procession-victimes-de-menaces-20211211 - with translation$

 $\frac{https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2021/12/12/frances-interior-minister-condemns-threats-against-catholics-during-procession/$

 $\frac{https://medforth.biz/get-lost-this-is-the-land-of-allah-muslims-attack-catholic-procession-infrance/$

December 2021, date unknown

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