

# PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS IN NIGERIA

# PERSECUTION: CHRISTIANITY'S DNA

- Persecution and the Emergence of Christianity
- The Birth of Jesus- Holy Innocents-Passion-Crucifixion
- Persecution and the Early Christian Community
- Persecution as a Blessing in Disguise: imprisonment with joy
- The Apostles were locked up for fear of the Jews
- The Holy Spirit and the vocation of being Witnesses:
- U shall be my witnesses to the ends of the earth Acts 1:8
- Methods of Witnessing: Proclamation-Lifestyle-
- A new form of boldness, **no more fear, glad to suffer** Acts 5: 41

# STRANGE LIFESTYLE OF THE APOSTLES

- Let us define our priority: Preaching the Gospel
- Diaconate-Signs and Wonders-Arrest-Flogging-Prison-Death
- No one held anything as his own Acts 4: 32
- Accountability and Transparency: Ananais and Saphira
- Paul: Persecution incorporated
- The Early Church is Missionary Church: Philip
- Methodologies of Support
- Early persecutions: Imprisonment-Torture-Whipping-

# PERSECUTION & MARTYRDOM THROUGH TIME

- Emperor Nero's Persecution 64-249: The Great Fires
- Decius' Persecution [249-251]
- Valerian Persecution [257-258]
- Diocletian [ 303-313]
- Refusal to bow to Caesar or sacrifice to him
- They were socio-economic saboteurs, Not eating meat
- Rejection of Military Service
- Strange forms of Worship. They were Atheists
- Being a Christian was certified a capital offence
- They were to blame for every tragedy: Bring them to the lions!

# PERSECUTION TODAY

- Christian Matrys had fore knowledge of consequences of their acts
- They knew they faced death
- Stephen-Peter-Paul-Ignatius-
- Courage to face death-Defiance of authority-
- Veneration and then Spread of the faith
- The fire of their torture was cold..when they were being tortured, they were absent from the flesh, they were no longer humans but angels, they are no longer in the flesh, Christ is ministering to them
- Ignatius of Antioch and the Maccabees Brothers
- Mocking their torturers... St Stephen

# CHRISTIAN MARTYRS TODAY

- Bakhita
- Bakanja
- Bolanle Ataga
- Michael Nnaji
- Lilian Ogu

# MARTYRS MADE IN AMERICA

- Trump as Postulator and Martyrologist
- Martyrs by location. Martydom is not real estate where it is Location
- That you died in a Church doesn't make you a martyr
- **Genocide-Ethnic cleansing-Crimes Against Humanity**
- Genocide: systematic extermination of a group based on nationality, race or religion.....**INTENT must be present**, textual/instructions. It is not based on
- Ethnic Cleansing
- Crimes Against Humanity(Trump says shooting 2 Americans is CAH

# GENOCIDE & KNIGHTHOOD

- What have the Knights Done about Genocide in Nigeria
- How many Christians are there in Nigeria
- Who Controls Nigeria's Education and Social Space?
- Our lack of Solidarity and awareness
- Ethnicity is more important to us than our Faith
- Are we really SALT of the Earth Today?
- Are we ready to Witness?
- Are we Evangelisers or Social Clubs/ Sororities?
- I knew if I fix the man, I will fix the world