

Life

St. Lucia Wang Wang and St. Tian Qing Wang, St. Yang Lang and St. Fu Lang are two pairs of mother and son. Their martyrdom were similar.

St. Lucia Wang Wang was born in Zhongguan Camp Village, Weixian, Hebei Province in 1869. During the Boxer rebellion, she took her 9-year-old son Tian Qing Wang and five-year-old daughter to seek refuge in Machiazhuang. On July 21, 1900, the Boxers came to the village. Lucia Wang Wang and her children, St. Yu Mei Wang and St. Anna Wang and others were arrested at the same time. After St. Yu Mei Wang was martyred, Lucia Wang Wang, with her two children and other believers were tempted by apostasy and threatened with death. Lucia Wang Wang was steadfast in her faith. The next day, a group of believers were taken to the execution ground. On seeing Tian Qing Wang was cute, lively and lovable, some non-Catholic bystanders were willing to adopt him as their son. Lucia Wang Wang hugged her son tightly, kindly but firmly said: "I have my faith, and my son has his faith. If you want to kill me, kill both of us. Now, please kill my son first, and then me." The leader of the boxers accepted the request. Tian Qing Wang showed no fear and looked at his mother with a smile on his face as he was beheaded. Then, Lucia Wang Wang and her 5-year-old daughter were also killed. St. Lucia Wang Wang died at the age of 31. St. Tian Qing Wang died at the age of 9.

St. Yang Lang was born in 1871 in Lujiabao Village, Qinghe County in Hebei Province. She was not a Catholic before marriage. After getting married, she prayed fervently and treated others with kindness. On July 16, 1900, the Boxers entered her village. The gangsters tied Yang Lang to a tree and asked her if she was a Christian. Yang Lang firmly replied: "Definitely." Her 7-year-old only son Fu Lang was out playing; on coming back and seeing a group of vicious people tying up his mother, he burst into tears. Yang Lang comforted him and said, "Child! Don't cry! Come here to mother!" Fu Lang was also caught and tied to another tree. Then a villain pierced Yang Lang's chest and abdomen with a spear, and slashed Fu Lang's arm with a knife. Finally, the mother and son were thrown into the fire and burned alive. St. Yang Lang died at the age of 29 and Fu Lang at the age of 7. He was the youngest Chinese martyr to be canonized.

Reflection

Regardless of whether religious persecutions were in China or elsewhere, some believers succumbed and apostatized, not because they are afraid of death, but because their children's lives were threatened. Both St. Lucia Wang Wang and St. Yang Lang faced this painful choice. If they insisted on their faith, their sons would die right on the spot. They were simple village women without profound knowledge, but they understood the Truth and were not attached to the brief, mortal life of the world. They helped their children choose to endure momentary pain and take the direct path to eternal life in heaven. The two loved their son, and Lucia Wang Wang was willing to endure the heartbreaking pain of witnessing her son's tragic death in order to let him see her encouraging and loving gaze until the last moment. When Yang Lang was tied to a tree and saw her frightened son, even though she was in danger, she still encouraged him with faith and said: "Come over to mother!" She comforted her son by accompanying him in life and death. Tian Qing Wang and Fu Lang also lived up to their mother's expectations. Although they were young, they had the courage to face death without begging for mercy and apostasy. All four of them received the honor of martyrdom. When we see the deeds of these four saints, we should reflect on it. When we need to make a choice, will we value family and friendship more than our love for the Lord? When facing challenges to our faith, can we have the courage to testify with our actions and set up good examples to encourage others?

Prayer

St. Lucia Wang Wang and St. Yang Lang were able to learn from Our Lady and be a witness in enduring the pain to accompany and support their beloved sons on their journey of suffering. Let us also meditate on the suffering of Our Lady so that we can receive her help. May we learn from Our Lady to surrender wholeheartedly and carry out the Lord's will in times of adversity.

May we learn from the two mothers and sons, St. Lucia Wang Wang, St. Tian Qing Wang, St. Yang Lang and St. Fu Lang,
especially their loyalty to their faith, to testify for the Lord without hesitation even when challenged.
St. Lucia Wang Wang, St. Tian Qing Wang, St. Yang Lang and St. Fu Lang, pray for us.