

**March 3**

**Servants of God Liberatus Weiss, Pius Fasoli and Samuel Marzorati**

Good day, good people! May the Lord give you peace!

I invite you to welcome three servants of God into your company today. They are Liberatus Weiss, Pius Fasoli and Samuel Marzorati. As Ethiopian missionaries of the early 18th century, they felt compelled to share Christ's love. In their worldview this meant that no effort was to be spared and no sacrifice was too great to communicate God's goodness. Their cross-cultural journey meant that they had to leave all that was familiar and embrace a new and unknown culture. Their success among the people was great. Unfortunately, this brought them into conflict with the king and local leaders and they were stoned to death.



Today we might say that their faith was an example of fearless courage. No one and nothing was going to make them compromise their faith. While courage is not completely absent from our world, there is a sense that the value has lost some of its appeal. In a world where the common good has been replaced by the supremacy of the needs of the individual, courage is not always the first reaction to the crimes of injustice. It takes courage to stand against the stones of misunderstanding and speak truth to power. It takes courage to stand with those who are not appreciated for reasons too many to mention. It takes courage to love without fear knowing that it is the only real power that conquers inhumanity.

Let us pray.

God of mercy we seek to be courageous people of faith, hope and love. In our company with Liberatus, Pius and Samuel may we work to be witnesses to truth. May our hearts be fearless before those who put power before love. We pray this in Jesus's name. Amen.

These courageous Franciscan Friars are friends of God and they are the company we welcome today.