

Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul

How many people here today know who Oprah is? LeBron? Miguel Pro?

Oprah and LeBron are CELEBRITIES

Miguel Pro is a SAINT

In our modern culture the celebrity has replaced the saint

Go into any bookstore – celebrity books are everywhere, not saints

Celebrities are usually the very opposite of saints

Celebrity wants attention for themselves

Saints want attention for God

Celebrities want to expand his/her visibility

Saints want to expand God's visibility

Miguel Pro was born in 1891 in Mexico

1900's Mexico passed anti Catholic laws persecuting the Church

Miguel wanted to be a priest

Persecution forced him to go to Belgium for seminary and ordination

He returned to Mexico and secretly began priestly ministry

Eventually he was arrested and met the firing squad

Not that unusual – Nov 2010 report – 7 out of 10 people in world cannot freely live their faith

Christianity is the most persecuted in the world

Not much different from Peter and Paul's day

Two giants of our faith – both, like Miguel Pro, were killed for their faith

Peter – crucified Paul – beheaded (red vestments)

But the blood of martyrs usually grows the faith – ROME & MEXICO

In the 2nd reading TIM Paul summarizes his "*faith-life*"

I am poured out like a libation (liquid sacrifice to God – empty)

how Lord stood by him despite trials – "rescued me from every evil".

In the Gospel – Peter answers "Who do YOU say that I am" - professes faith Jesus, Son of God.

Peter was fisherman – Paul was a tentmaker

Not celebrities – Not famous – Not powerful

They were faithful

They did great things NOT because they were *Church-going people*

They did great things because they were *Church-going-out people*

They didn't seek their own glory

They brought the good news that GOD LOVES US

As "Church going" people we know that

As "Church going out" people – as saints - we can bring that same message

God's love is total, complete, free, and fruitful – and it is ours TO SHARE

Just like Peter and Paul