



MERCIFUL JESUS,

You came into the world  
to bring glad tidings to the poor  
and to set captives free.

Through the witness of African saints and martyrs,  
you have shown your love to the whole world.

St. Monica, trusting in your **providence**,  
prayed unceasingly for the conversion of her son,  
St. Augustine,  
whose bold teaching enlightened the whole world.

Sts. Felicity, Perpetua, and Cyprian, witnesses to  
your **fidelity**,  
suffered persecution and martyrdom for their faith.

The Ugandan martyrs Charles Lwanga and his  
companions, faithful to your **law**,  
laid down their lives in imitation of your love.

St. Josephine Bakhita, imitating you in your **mercy**,  
endured slavery and torture before encountering the  
freedom of living for you.

Through the intercession of these saints, grant us  
faith to follow you more closely,  
hope in your Resurrection to strengthen our pursuit  
of justice,  
and charity to give selflessly of our time, talent,  
and treasure  
to the vibrant and growing African church.

Fill us with their zeal and faithfulness,  
that with them we might praise you for all eternity.

**Amen.**

