



August 25, 2024



## **St. Lorenzo Ruiz - Patron Saint of the Philippines, Migrants, and Separated Families**

St. Lorenzo Ruiz was born in 1596 to a Filipino mother and Chinese father. Raised in Manila, Lorenzo served his parish, had a strong devotion to the rosary, and wound up marrying a woman named Rosario! The happy couple lived a peaceful, prayerful life with their two sons and one daughter. The daily lessons and prayer life they practiced as a family strengthened them for the crosses ahead. In 1636, Lorenzo was falsely accused of killing a Spaniard and was forced to flee to Japan. Shortly after arriving in Nagasaki, Lorenzo and the priests he was with were arrested by the shogunate, brutally tortured for their faith, and martyred. Although he was tempted to renounce his faith, Lorenzo's last words were "Had I one thousand lives, all of these I would give to God." Lorenzo and Rosario faced many terrible challenges that couples experience even to this day: racism, separation, loss of a spouse, forced migration, persecution for the faith. They can be great intercessors for couples and families to persevere in times of hardship.

### **Reflection questions for couples:**

- What crosses do we carry as a couple, or as a family? How does our faith help us carry those crosses?
- How do we pray as a couple, or as a family? How can we strengthen our prayer life to imitate the Ruiz's?

### **Reflection questions for parents and children:**

- Most people in our state will never have to face death for our beliefs, but we all have to make sacrifices sometimes for our family. Which sacrifices are especially hard for you?
- How does it feel when you generously do something nice for someone in your family?
- How do you think it makes them feel?

