

## **Martyrs in the Twentieth Century Answer Key**

1. What facts about the history of religious freedom in the past one hundred years did you find in your research?

- *Answers will vary.*

2. Do we take religious freedom for granted in our time? Why or why not?

- Groups could take either stance. If they say we do take religious freedom for granted, reasons could include fewer people attending religious services, fewer religion-based wars, and little concern for religious freedom in our country or other countries.
- If they say we do not take religious freedom for granted, reasons could include deep concern among many people for the rights of religious groups, the number of martyrs in the last century, and statements defending religious freedom by the Catholic Church and other religious groups.

3. How do the stories of these extraordinary lives provide inspiration to other people who are committed to the priority of truth in their lives, especially in witnessing to the ultimate truth God has revealed for our salvation?

*Answers could include:*

- When people are willing to die for the truth, it makes others sit up and take notice.
- We try to understand what led these people to take these remarkable acts of courage.
- Our hearts are moved to imitate these people and stand up in our own lives for the Gospel of Christ and its message of truth and justice.

4. In what ways do the practice of the virtue of honesty and the development of integrity require self-denial?

- Answers will vary but will probably have the theme that being a person of honesty and integrity means challenging individuals and society when they are being dishonest or living without integrity. Doing this often comes with consequences: we might lose friends, lose popularity, or even become the target of abuse and hatred.

5. How is martyrdom an ultimate example of integrity?

- Answers will vary but will probably have the theme that being willing to sacrifice one's life for what one believes is the greatest act of love—love of God, love of self, and love for others—that a person can perform. As Jesus said, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

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