

Homily  
Feast of Ss Simon & Jude, Apostles  
October 28, 2022

I am not the worst deacon; yet I am not the best deacon. I am not the worst husband; sadly, I am not the best husband. I am not the worst at my job; still, much to my employer's chagrin, I'm not the best. And even if I were the best at something, which I'm not, I'm certainly not the best at everything. So that puts me somewhere in the middle; this makes me – average.

Where does that put you? I think it's safe to say that we all are somewhere between the best and the worst, most likely somewhere in the middle, you know, average.

Jesus is God. We are failed humans. He came down to earth to fix that which only He could fix. He is eternal, meaning He is forever and always. He is omnipotent, meaning He is all-powerful. He is omnipresent, meaning He's everywhere all at once. He is omniscient, meaning He's all-knowing. That makes Him the best. At everything.

You'd think that the God of the Universe, when building His Church, when picking His team, would pick the best of the best among us. You'd think He would pray to His Father in heaven to present to Him the ones who would be wise, strong, loyal, faithful, obedient.

Not our God. He picked Simon-Peter, open-mouth-insert-foot. He chose James and John, who sought preferential treatment by sitting at His right and His left. He chose Doubting Thomas who refused to believe until he saw for himself the crucifixion wounds. He chose Judas Iscariot, who would betray Him.

Certainly not the best of us.

In spite of all this, His church grew. It grew exponentially even after He ascended into heaven. And this Church continues to grow today, despite all the average people it contains, despite all the failed humans who fill and run His church.

In today's letter to the Ephesians, Paul tells us that we, "are fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the Apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the capstone." It is through our Lord and Savior that all this is held together. We are the bricks; He is the mortar. We are nothing without Him. We are everything with Him.

Today, we celebrate the Feast of Ss. Simon and Jude, two average men who were numbered among the Twelve. They were ordinary men just like you and I. They were chosen by God, just like you and I. They had Free Will and chose to follow Jesus, just like you and I have Free Will and can chose to follow or not follow Jesus.

Let's follow their lead. Let's follow Jesus. Let's embrace our ordinary human nature and become one with Jesus and our neighbor in the Body of Christ. Let's come forward in the communion line and receive Him Who wants to be one with us more than we can imagine. Let's go forward to proclaim His Good News until we see Him face-to-Face in the banquet of our heavenly Father.