

Homily  
Feast of Saint Andrew, Apostle  
November 30, 2023

Who is an only child? You're just like Jesus! Who is the oldest? Who has little brothers or sisters? Are you nice to them? Do you look after them and protect them? That's one of the most important jobs of being the oldest.

Who can tell me who St. Peter is? One of the Apostles of Jesus. The first pope. The one who denied Jesus three times. Peter is probably the most well known and most important of the twelve Apostles.

Today is the Feast of St. Andrew, a disciple of John the Baptist. And he is known as the first of the Apostles. He met Jesus through John the Baptist and then introduced his little brother, Peter, to Jesus.

Who has a big brother or sister? You can relate to St. Peter. I'm sure St. Andrew looked after his little brother and took good care of him.

St. Andrew was an Apostle, the first-called; that's a big deal. The Apostles were the first disciples of Jesus. St. Andrew, like all the Apostles, had great faith. He gave up everything to follow Jesus. Do you have great faith like Andrew?

Who is named Andrew, or Andy, or Andrea? St. Andrew is your patron saint. He is also the patron saint of fishermen and singers. And he is the patron saint of several countries including Scotland, Romania, Russia and Ukraine. St. Andrew preached the Good News to the Greeks.

All of us are called to be Apostles. An Apostle is 'One Who Is Sent Out.' We are called to share the Good News. Who can tell me what the Good News is?

The first reading tells us what it means to be an Apostle for Jesus. We are to tell others that if we "confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Can you do that? Can you tell your friends and family that Jesus is Lord? Can you tell them that God raised Jesus from the dead? It can be scary to share something knowing that some people may not listen or may make fun of you. But when you know the truth, when you know that Jesus is truly God and that He gave Himself up for us, rising from dead, destroying death and restoring life, when you know that Jesus is truly present on this altar and that we become one with Jesus when we receive Him in the communion line, when you know the truth, it gets easier to share the truth with others. That's what God wants all of us to do. Can you do that?

That's why God tells us to come to Mass; to receive Jesus in His Word proclaimed; to receive Jesus in the Sacrament of the Eucharist; to be strengthened and encouraged to be an Apostle. At the end of Mass, after Fr. Jason give us the final blessing, I will dismiss us to go and be Christ for the world. Can you do that? Go and be Christ for the world.