

Homily
Feast of Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles
Monday of the 30th Week in Ordinary Time
October 28, 2024

What is the definition of Apostle? It is traditionally known as ‘one who is sent.’ New Advent, the Catholic Encyclopedia, has a lengthy narrative of the word, its etymology, and its meaning. In today’s Gospel, Jesus spent the night in prayer, then calls His disciples and chooses twelve. These men He then sent forth. All of us are known by God. Jesus calls us all. When we answer His call, He then sends us forth. From our Creed, we know the Church is One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic (CCC 866-869). We are all given gifts which God then wants us to develop, hone, sharpen, then go forth, share those gifts, and proclaim the Gospel message, the Good News. At the end of this Mass, I will dismiss us all to ‘glorify God by our lives.’ This is the mission of the Church.

Saints Simon and Jude were two of those original Apostles. Like all of the twelve, they were ordinary men chosen by Jesus to teach others about God’s love and to “make disciples of all nations” (Matt 28:19). We celebrate their Feast together because they traveled together and were martyred together. St. Simon is the patron of leather tanners. He was known as ‘the Zealot’ indicating his defiance of and movement against the Roman government. St. Jude is the patron of hopeless causes because of the miraculous cure of the King of Edessa who had leprosy.

I sometimes find it difficult to remember just who I am; I am a child of God, created in His merciful love, called to greatness and given the mission of sharing the Good News to all the world. This is difficult for me because I have so many selfish desires. I want so many things for myself. But that is not what I was created for. You and I were all created to love God and love our neighbor. Remember that God loves us more than we can imagine. He loves all of us with His infinite love. And if we answer His call, follow His Son and go to proclaim His Good News, we, too, can join the company of the angels and saints in His glorious kingdom.