

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

November 26th, 2017 – CHRIST THE KING

Spirituality Ponderings Apostles

Continuing our look at the
Apostles

Phillip

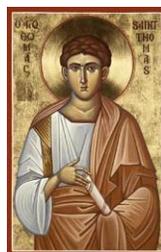
I know that St. Andrew is known for bringing people to Jesus but Phillip is also recorded as bringing many people to Jesus also. What I think about when it comes to Phillip is not his ability to bring others to Jesus but the time in which Jesus kind of scolded him for not yet getting it. "Phillip said to him, 'Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.'" Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" (John 14:8-9). I find great comfort that he did not understand everything that Jesus was trying to reveal and it gives me hope that if the Lord did not give up on Philip or the other disciples that He will not give up on me.



all things, look down and visit, O most diligent keeper, that vineyard which thy right hand planted with so much labor, anxiety and peril. To thee, then, we fly; from thee we seek for aid; to thee we give our whole selves unreservedly; thee we adopt for our patron and defender. Undertake the cause of our salvation, protect thy clients; to thee kindest of rulers, we give up the rudder of our lives; steer this little ship of thine, and, placed as thou art on high, keep us off all the rocks of evil desires, and with thee for our pilot and our guide we may safely come to the port of eternal bliss. Amen.

Thomas/Didymus

I have always taken Thomas the Apostle as my patron saint and so you could say I have a special fondness for him. I do believe that he gets a bad rap in John's Gospel for not believing the other Apostles about the resurrection. If Christ had truly risen why were the Apostles still in the Upper Room with the doors locked? What I really like about Thomas though is that he is the first apostle that realizes that following Jesus means dying to oneself: "Jesus said this, and then told them, 'Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him.' So, the disciples said to him, 'Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved.' But Jesus was talking

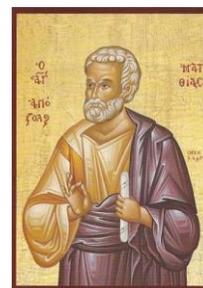


about his death, while they thought that he meant ordinary sleep. So, then Jesus said to them clearly, 'Lazarus has died. And I am glad for you that I was not there, that you may believe. Let us go to him.'" Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go to die with him." Every time I think of my patron saint, I am reminded of my need to die with Christ.

Dear Saint Thomas, You were once slow in believing that Christ had gloriously risen; but later, because you had seen him, you exclaimed: "My Lord and my God!" According to an ancient story, you rendered most powerful assistance for constructing a church in a place where pagan priests opposed it. Please bless architects, builds and carpenters that through them the Lord may be honored.- Amen

Matthias

I wanted to include Matthias in my list of Apostles because he is a reminder to me of my need to be ready to step up. Matthias, we learn in the Acts of the Apostles has been a longtime disciple of Jesus and now with the death of Judas is asked to take on a leadership role within the community (Acts 1:15&ff). There are times in which I am comfortable in my own little



Prayer to St. Philip the Apostle , for Aid

Look down from heaven, holy father, from the loftiness of that mountain to the lowliness of this valley; from that harbor of quietness and tranquility to this calamitous sea. And now that the darkness of this world hinders no more those benignant eyes of thine from looking clearly into

parish and I do not want to add anything else to my list of duties despite knowing that the larger Church (normally the diocese) needs someone to serve the people of God in a special way. For example, in addition to being pastor of my parish, I am also the lead priest for Project Rachel in my diocese. Moments when I feel God calling me to do something more, especially if it is outside my comfort zone, that I turn to St. Matthias for spiritual encouragement.

I am going to conclude my reflection on the spiritual insights I gain from pondering the life of the Apostles by saying one thing about Judas who became a traitor. Judas is for me a warning sign and the warning is this, I will end up physically and spiritually dead if I try to do things my way instead of God's way. It is therefore very important for me to follow Jesus example of love and to allow Him to transform me instead of just going through the motions as I assume Judas did.

A Prayer to St. Matthias the Apostle, for the Church
O Almighty God, who into the place of Judas didst choose thy faithful servant Matthias to be of the number of the Twelve: Grant that thy Church, being delivered from false apostles, may always be ordered and guided by faithful and true pastors; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, Amen

Breaking Open the Word

Nov. 26, 2017 The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe Lectionary: 160 Gospel MT 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Spiritual Reflection: Historian H.G. Wells: "I am an historian, I am not a believer, but I must confess as a historian that this penniless preacher from Nazareth is irrevocably the very center of history. Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant figure in all history." If Jesus was a "penniless preacher" and "still the very center of history" (not to mention our Lord and savior) why do we spend so much time worried about material wealth."

Spiritual Questions

1. Who is Jesus Christ to you?
2. Does your daily life show others the answer to question #1?
3. How can you make Christ the King of our life?
4. What does it mean to you when we call Jesus a "king"?
5. How did God work in your life this past liturgical year?



Prayers for the Week

Feast of Christ the King.

PRAYER TO CHRIST THE KING # 1

Christ Jesus, I acknowledge You King of the universe. All that has been created has been made for You. Make full use of Your rights over me. I renew the promises I made in Baptism, when I renounced Satan and all his pomps and works, and I promise to live a good Christian life and to do all in my power to procure the triumph of the rights of God and Your Church. Divine Heart of Jesus, I offer you my efforts in order to obtain that all hearts may acknowledge your Sacred Royalty, and that thus the Kingdom of Your peace may be established throughout the universe. Amen.

PRAYER TO CHRIST THE KING # 2

O Jesus Christ, I acknowledge Thee as universal King. All that has been made, has been created for Thee. Exercise all Thy rights over me. I renew my baptismal vows, renouncing Satan, his pomps and his works; and I promise to live as a good Christian. In particular do I pledge

myself to labor, to the best of my ability, for the triumph of the rights of God and Thy Church. Divine Heart of Jesus, to Thee do I proffer my poor services, laboring that all hearts may acknowledge Thy Sacred Kingship, and that thus the reign of Thy peace be established throughout the whole universe. Amen.

PRAYER TO CHRIST THE KING #3

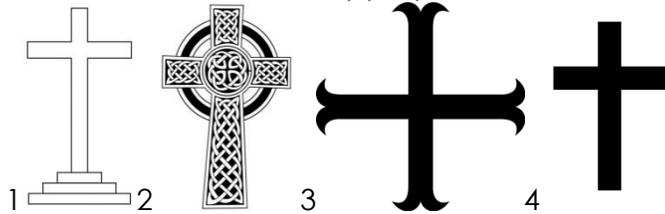
O my Divine Savior, Transform me into Yourself. May my hands be the hands of Jesus. Grant that every faculty of my body May serve only to glorify You. Above all, Transform my soul and all its powers So that my memory, will and affection May be the memory, will and affections Of Jesus. I pray for You to destroy in me All that is not of You. Grant that I may live But in You, by You and for You, So that I may truly say, With St. Paul, "I live - now not I - but Christ lives in me". Amen

Catholic Trivia



Last Week's Answers

Match the Cross with its appropriate title.



- A. Latin = 4
C. Celtic = 2

- B. Calvary = 1
D. Greek = 3



This Week's Questions

Match the Cross with its appropriate title.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. St. Martin of Tours | 2. St. Martin de Porres |
| 3. St. Christopher | 4. St. Miguel Pro |

- A. Saint was called "servant of slaves"
B. Saint shared his cloak with a beggar who turned out to be Christ in disguised.
C. Saint carried a child, who was Christ in disguised over a water hazard.
D. Saint was executed for being a priest.

Quotes of the Week

"Without the burden of afflictions it is impossible to reach the height of grace. The gift of grace increases as the struggle increases." *St. Rose of Lima*

"A humble soul does not trust itself, but places all its confidence in God." *St. Faustina*

"Faith is to believe what you do not see. The reward of faith is to see what you believe." *St. Augustine*

"I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt." *Pope Francis*

"Know that the greatest service that man can offer to God is to help convert souls." *St. Rose of Lima*

goodness, sends to us day after day." *St. Gianna Molla*

"The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all that He, in His

Pro-Life Corner

Pro-Life Quote: "The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of good government." – Thomas Jefferson

Pro-Life Prayer: Prayer for the Unborn

O Mary, bright dawn of the new world, Mother of the living, To you do we entrust the cause of life. Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born, Of the poor whose lives are made difficult, of men and women who are victims of brutal violence, Of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy. Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim the Gospel of Life With honesty and love to the people of our time. Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a gift ever new, The joy of celebrating it with gratitude throughout their lives and the courage to bear witness to it, resolutely, in order to build, together with all people of good will, The civilization of truth and love, To the praise and the glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. Amen. ~ Pope St John Paul II

Saint Monica Society Prayer For November

ACT OF LOVE

O My God, I love you above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because you are all-good and worthy of all love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me, and ask pardon of all whom I have injured. In a special way I ask you to help me to manifest your love to those whose practice of the faith is mediocre at best. May they come to know your love and may they love you the way that I do. Amen.

St. Monica Society

Please join us in praying a special prayer each month for Catholics who have fallen away from their faith.

Catholic Humor

1. Atheists don't solve exponential equations because they don't believe in higher powers.
2. I couldn't quite remember how to throw a boomerang, but eventually it came back to me.
3. What do dogs do after they finish obedience school? They get their masters.
4. The one who invented the door knocker got a No-bell prize.
5. Police were called to a daycare where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.