

## Reflection Thursday week 10. 2020 – St Barnabas

The meaning of the name Barnabas is uncertain but in Acts he is called *son of encouragement* because he was certainly a strong supporter and helper of St Paul and an inspired missionary himself. However good we are, however great our abilities, our wisdom and capability, we all need encouragement and support. Today, Barnabas reminds us of that. So, we may not be great leaders, we may not be known for any outstanding achievement or success but we can all encourage others like St Barnabas. Jesus tells us that we have *received without charge, so we must give without charge.*

When Barnabas became a Christian and joined the early Christian community, he sold everything and gave it all to the community; not only his possessions but his whole life. A life that he devoted to bringing the Gospel to others. It is very probable that he learned how to be a missionary from St Paul, whom he accompanied on his first missionary journey. So, when he went back to Cyprus, his home, he preached the Gospel there. He already believed that everything he had was gift and not something he owned or possessed, and that they were gifts to be shared, given away. Barnabas then discovered that the more he gave away his gifts the more he had to give away. The more he preached the Gospel, the more he understood and absorbed its message, its good news and the better he was able to live the Gospel. It was in this gifting of himself that he discovered true wisdom and inspired many, not only to receive the Good News but to live it and, in their turn, to hand it on to others.

**Some thoughts** for other preachers of the Gospel:

***“Pray as though everything depended on God.  
Work as though everything depended on you.”***

*(St Augustine of Hippo)*

***“Teach us to give and not to count the cost.”  
“It is not hard to obey when we love the one, whom we obey.”***

*St Ignatius Loyola*

***“Let us begin in earnest to work out our salvation, for no one will do it for us,  
since even God, who made us without ourselves,  
will not save us without ourselves.”***

*St Margaret Mary Alacoque*

***“I know well that the greater and more beautiful the work is,  
the more terrible will be the storms that rage against it.”***

*St Maria Faustina Kowalska*

**And a few more thoughts for pondering . . .**

A boss announces to his staff: “I’ve lost a wallet containing £500 cash, if you find it, I’m offering a £100 finder’s fee!”

- A voice from the back of the room shouts out: **“Well, I’m offering £200!”**