

Reflection Wednesday Week 30 – Sts Simon and Jude 2020

Simon the apostle is known as the Zealot, but nothing else is known about him. His other name of “Simon Cananaeus” simply adapts another Hebrew word for “zeal” and has nothing to do with the town of Cana. Jude, also called Thaddaeus, is the apostle who at the Last Supper asked the Lord why he showed himself only to the disciples and not to the world. For many centuries he was scarcely venerated because people confused him with Judas Iscariot. He is the patron saint of lost and desperate causes.

Jesus would often pray to the Father for guidance especially about the important choices he had to make. His first decision was to form a community and sought discernment about who its members might be, desiring to fulfil the will of his Father. Simon and Jude remind us that we, too, are chosen by the Father to be his disciples - to be apostles of Good News. We are part of a great family which has Jesus for a brother. The gospels make it clear that the apostles did not always understand everything they were taught. They were far from perfect and yet, despite their failings, they stayed faithful to their mission to the end, not just out of gratitude and love for Jesus but because they wanted others to discover the true joy of the Gospel that they experienced. Today we can ask Simon to increase our zeal for the gospel so that, in living the gospel, we will inspire others to want to be fully part of our family. We can ask Jude to help us be a visible sign of hope and light to those we encounter, especially those who have fallen into despair and a feeling of hopelessness. These two great gifts are in great demand today in the face of the pandemic. Ask Simon and Jude to help us all!

A man driving down a country road finds himself hopelessly lost.

He pulls over to speak to a farmer leaning on a fence next to a dog. The man asks the farmer for directions, and the farmer kindly shows him the way. Before he leaves, the man asks, *"excuse me, does your dog bite?"* The farmer says *"no he doesn't bite."*

The man goes to pet the dog, and the dog growls and takes a big chunk out of the man's hand, biting hard with his teeth. The man pulls back and yells *"I thought you said your dog doesn't bite?"* The farmer says ***"That ain't my dog!!"***