

Reflection Wednesday Week 28 St Luke 2023

Saint Luke, Evangelist, was a Greek doctor who converted to Christianity. He was a companion of the Apostle Paul, and wrote his Gospel in accordance with Paul's teaching. He also wrote the Acts of the Apostles, which narrates the early history of the Church up to Paul's first stay in Rome. As a Greek, he takes care to explain to Gentile readers Jewish customs and the meaning of Hebrew words.

What makes a good doctor good is attention to detail. This is evident in Luke in the help he gave to non-Jews' understanding of Jewish customs and words. In his gospel he focuses on the poor and their importance in our lives of faith. He promoted the importance and the contribution woman gave to the growth of the early Church. He also found great strength in the mercy of God as a healing and strengthening power of God within us. The trust St Paul has in him shows that he had a welcoming and reassuring nature which is a great asset for any doctor.

As we celebrate the Feast of St. Luke, we remember how he spread the Good News to a great diversity of people. The Church continues this evangelization, especially with this month's Synod on Synodality. The synod is an opportunity for each of us to continue the work of Jesus' 72 disciples, Paul, and Luke. We can support the synod with our prayers. We can also imitate the model of the synod, listening to one another and allowing the Holy Spirit to inspire us so that we can continue to fulfil our mission to evangelize the world. And we can pray for all those who, like Demas and Alexander, work against the Holy Spirit.

A chap drove his car into a ditch in a desolated area. Luckily, a local farmer came to help with his big strong horse named Buddy. He hitched Buddy up to the car and yelled, "Pull, Nellie, pull!" Buddy didn't move. Then the farmer hollered, "Pull, Buster, pull!" Buddy didn't respond. Once more the farmer commanded, "Pull, Coco, pull!" Nothing. Then the farmer nonchalantly said, "Pull, Buddy, pull!" And the horse easily dragged the car out of the ditch. The motorist was most appreciative and very curious. He asked the farmer why he called his horse by the wrong name three times. The farmer said, "Oh, Buddy is blind and if he thought he was the only one pulling, he wouldn't even try!"