



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

FEAST OF SAINT ANDREW FIRST-CENTURY APOSTLE

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's Gospel

As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.

MATTHEW 4:18-22

Reflection

Andrew was a fisherman who worked with his brother Simon in the town of Bethsaida in Galilee. In the Gospels, Andrew is often shown as someone who brings others to Jesus:

- The boy who had five loaves and two fishes when the crowd needed food
- In the Gospel of John, it is Andrew who tells his brother Simon Peter, “We have found the Messiah”
- When Jesus came into Jerusalem after three years of ministry, Andrew helped some Greeks who wanted to meet Jesus

These invitations were a precursor of his life as a missionary after Pentecost.

In Matthew’s telling of the call of Jesus’ first followers, he introduces the fundamentals of discipleship: first, the disciples of Jesus are invited by him (whereas disciples of rabbis normally would choose the rabbi they wanted to be their teacher). Second, Jesus’ invitation is a call to an active mission, not merely an intellectual assent. The story highlights both the immediacy and totality of the response of the first disciples. Radical changes in their lives are symbolized in the leaving of their fishing nets, their boat and their father. Third, the communal dimension of discipleship can be noted through the call of two sets of brothers. We learn that discipleship is first and foremost being with Jesus. From this comes Andrew’s life as one who lives and teaches the Gospel message. Interesting that several countries in various parts of the world claim to have been visited by the missionary Andrew.

Tradition claims that he was crucified on an X-shaped cross. Because of legends that say he preached in Scotland, his cross appears on the flag of that country. He is patron saint not only of Scotland but also of Greece and Russia.





"08. Saint Andrew, Apostle (November 30)" by KiltBear is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0.

For Pondering

- Imagine yourself walking in a garden with Andrew. What would you two be talking about?
- Which response of discipleship is evident in your life today?
- As a disciple, in what ways does God reach out to you?

For Prayer

*Dear God,
Let me feel close to you.
Grant me satisfaction with my life.
Let me rejoice in that closeness,
and let me turn that satisfaction
into a sense of self-worth –
not one based in arrogance
or in feelings of self-importance,
but a humble self-esteem
rooted in holiness.*

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