

April 11, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

WE ARE WITNESSES

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About The Saint of the Day

The son of aristocratic parents, Stanislaus decided early in his life to be a priest. He attended the best schools, even as far away as Paris. Back in Krakow, his preaching on Sunday mornings drew crowds from all over the city. In 1072, Stanislaus was chosen bishop of Krakow. The people were overjoyed, as they loved their new bishop, who was so approachable. They felt free to ask him for whatever they needed: advice, food, shelter, or whatever. His house was open for the poor.

The opposite of Stanislaus at the time was the King of Poland, Boleslaus II, who was nicknamed “the cruel.” He cheated the poor and engaged in unjust wars. While everyone else was afraid of the king, Stanislaus spoke out against him, saying that an unjust king not only had no right to be king, he could not be a member of the church.

At first the king tried to do away with Stanislaus by spreading negative rumors about him. That had no effect. The king then ordered his guards to kill Stanislaus while he was celebrating Mass, but they refused to obey him. So the

king took a sword and killed Stanislaus himself.

Eventually the king was driven out of Poland. Legend says he repented and spent the remainder of his life in a monastery in Hungary.

Today's First Reading

When the court officers had brought the Apostles in and made them stand before the Sanhedrin, the high priest questioned them, "We gave you strict orders did we not, to stop teaching in that name. Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and want to bring this man's blood upon us." But Peter and the Apostles said in reply, "We must obey God rather than men. The God of our ancestors raised Jesus, though you had him killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as leader and savior to grant Israel repentance and forgiveness of sins. We are witnesses of these things, as is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him." When they heard this, they became infuriated and wanted to put them to death.

ACTS 5:27-33

Reflection

As preaching of the Gospel grows stronger, so does opposition. Again the followers of Jesus stand before the Sanhedrin authorities. In the next verses, we are told that the Pharisee Gamaliel, an influential member of the Sanhedrin Council, intervenes -- arguing that other would-be false prophets fade away, so why bother with this Jesus? He suggests a wait-and-see approach, pointing out that divinely guided history will show whether this Jesus movement is of God or not. "If this activity comes from God, you will not be able to destroy them; you may find yourselves fighting against God." (Acts 5:39) The authorities decide to release the followers of Jesus, but only after they have them beaten and order them to stop speaking in the name of Jesus. Rejoicing that they suffered for the "sake of the name," the Apostles continue teaching all day long, both at the Temple and in their homes. They do not stop proclaiming the Messiah, Jesus. They were, after all, witnesses to his life and death, testifying to the genuineness and effect of his presence as creation's savior, sent by God.



"File:Cracow Legend of Saint Stanislaus (detail) 02.jpg" by Anonymous (Kraków or Nuremberg)Unknown author
Creator:Albrecht Glim is marked with CCo 1.0.

For Pondering

- When have you experienced being a witness to God's saving activity?
What effect did it have on your day-to-day existence?

- List those in your life who point out God's presence to you/in you. What do you say to them?
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For Prayer

*Savior God,
may I be aware of you in my life at each moment
and give witness to your creative love always.
Amen.*

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