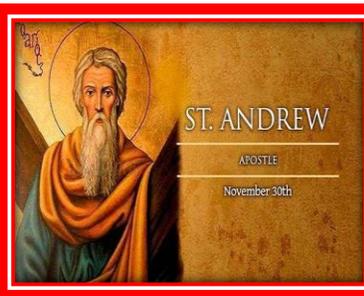
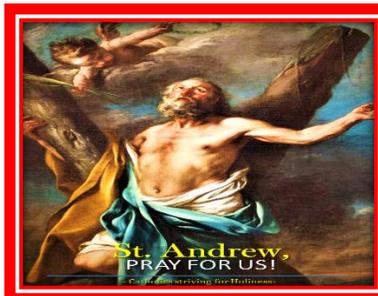


November 30, 2020 – Monday of the 1st Week in Advent



**“Like St Andrew, may we too, become people who “Introduce many to Christ!”
(Rom 10:9-18 Mt 4:18-22)**

Happy Feast of St Andrew, the zealous Apostle, and Martyr, who “Introduced many to Christ!”

St Andrew, the Apostle of Jesus, Martyr, whose feast we celebrate today. Andrew is always listed second in the list of the twelve apostles, after his brother, Simon Peter. On this feast of Saint Andrew, we hear the story of the call of Andrew along with his brother Simon Peter and another set of brothers, James and John.

This valiant martyr, St Andrew, had received the call of the Lord, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men” (Mt 4: 19). The name “Andrew” in Greek means “manly” or “a person of valor”. St. Andrew was from Bethsaida, in Galilee. He was a fisherman, by trade and a former disciple of John the Baptist. St Andrew is said to have been martyred at Patras in southern Greece on a cross which was in the shape of an “X”. This type of cross has long been known as “St Andrew’s cross.” St Andrew’s Cross, is depicted, on the national flag of Scotland.

1. St. Andrew’s wonderful quality of being an “Introducer to Christ”

One of the wonderful things that we learn from St Andrew is his wonderful quality of being an “Introducer to Christ”, as seen in the various instances of the Gospel.

- It was St Andrew who “introduced to Christ”, his brother Peter (Jn 1: 40-42). “We have found the Messiah” (Jn 1:41) were the words with which he introduced Jesus to his brother.
- It was St Andrew who “introduced to Christ”, the little boy with the five loaves and two fish, which would be later, multiplied for five thousand men! (Jn 6: 5-13). “There is a little boy, who has five barley loaves and two fish?” (Jn 6:9) were the words with which he introduced Jesus to the little boy.
- It was St Andrew who “introduced to Christ” the Greeks who had come up to worship at the feast, at the request of Philip (Jn 12: 20-23). “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified” (Jn 12: 23) were the words with which Jesus reacted when he was introduced to the Greeks.

Thus, we see that St Andrew became an instrument and an active medium of “Introducing to Christ” many people. As a Christian, this ought to be one great quality and duty that we ought to follow – “Introducing to Christ” many people, like St Andrew.

We are on the last day of November, and as we enter into December, this can be one of the beautiful practical resolutions, that we can do, all the 25 days of this Advent Season, in preparation for the Birth of Christ, into our hearts and life “Introducing to Christ”.

2. How can I take up this task of “Introducing to Christ”?

- Many around us long to hear a word of encouragement in their brokenness, receive a word of consolation in their struggles, and encounter a smile of hope in their helplessness. Can I “Introduce them to Christ” – to His love, to His message of hope, to His treasury of providence?
- Many around us have immersed themselves into the murky waters of sin, immorality, injustice, and insensitivity to people and nature. Can I “Introduce them to Christ” – to His ocean of mercy, to His fountain of justice, and His abundance of warmth?
- Many around us have separated themselves and live in isolation – from people in relationships, from the Church and Her teachings, from the responsibilities and duties of their works and society. Can I “Introduce them to Christ” – to His dimension of wholeness in relations, to His Life-giving Sacraments, and to His instruction of being faithful?

3. St Andrew heard the call of the Lord – “to follow Him”

He was touched by His love and was filled with a passion for His Master. He was zealous to bring many more to the Love of Jesus. He was even willing, to lay down his life, in imitation of his Master, for love of Him.

4. We too, have heard the call of the Lord – “to follow Him”.

- Are we touched by His love and was filled with a passion for His Master?
- Are we zealous to bring many more to the Love of Jesus?
- Are we also, willing, to lay down our life, in imitation of our Master, for love of Him?

May St Andrew intercede for us and inspire us, by his tremendous love for the Master. And may we too, like him, become people who “Introduce many to Christ!”

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, Who didst beautify the most blessed Andrew with the grace of apostleship, and the crown of martyrdom, by granting to him this special gift, that by preaching the

mystery of the cross, he should merit death on the cross; Grant us to become most true lovers of Thy holy cross, and denying ourselves, to take up our cross and follow Thee; That by sharing Thy sufferings in this life, we may deserve the happiness of obtaining life everlasting.

Jesus, I Trust In You