

May 14, 2020
Feast of Saint Matthias, Apostle
Acts 1:15-17,20-26
John 15:9-17

Today's Activities & Tasks

- Read Daily Readings
- Reflection from Fr. Brian Johnson
- Prayer and Challenge for the Day
- Saint Matthias Information
- Pray for Life Monthly Prayer Guide

Reflection Easter Week 5 Thursday Feast of St Matthias
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26 & John 15:9-17

Whatever happened to Joseph Barsabbas, aka Justus? He was the runner-up in the drawing (of lots) to replace Judas to complete the number of apostles back to 12 again. Not to slight Matthias at all, for God clearly chose him through the Holy Spirit as the man to fill Judas' place, but what became of Justus? I think of him as the patron saint of 'second place finishes'. But as we have always been taught, the most important part of the contest is not whether we win or not, but simply how well we play. Or as I say about championship teams or Olympic athletes, if you just made it that far, you win so much! So, for Justus, simply the fact that he was willing to work and applying himself to the task of being an 'apostle candidate', that is what mattered most. A student once suggested to me that maybe his three names were too confusing or hard to remember to be picked. But I am sure God's plan has more depth in it than that! Even being mentioned, though, is something for the scriptures to make note of, because often we may hear about some encounter and the persons are not named at all. He at least got named (or 3x named!) Remember the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, Cleopas and 'who' (Luke 23)? Or how about the morning breakfast with Jesus in John 21:2 when we hear about Peter, Thomas, Nathaniel, James and

John, and **“two others of his disciples”**. What’s their names? Oh, yes, them, okay, but they know and the Lord knows.

This reading highlights to me the number of other followers of Jesus who were right in there with the apostles but not among that innermost circle with the Lord. Maybe like what we call the additional ‘seventy two’ disciples, who are only mentioned as a mission group in Luke 10:1-2. Interestingly, this really may be something, because it is this additional 72 that Jesus specifically tells after they return from their mission in Luke 10:20 “do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven.” Their names may only be written in heaven, and not anywhere here on earth or in the scriptures! But they serve because of who they are serving (Jesus Himself) not because of promotion they make give to themselves. Jesus is the difference they follow, not to be served and make a name of themselves, but only to serve and glorify His Name (Matt 20:28)!

One necessary requirement of any possible replacement for Judas was that the man be one who accompanied the apostles, “the whole time the Lord Jesus came and went among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which he was taken up from us... with us, a witness to his resurrection” (Acts 1:20-21). So how many other (all 120 disciples-if so was each apostle a lieutenant for a platoon of ten disciples?) followers had such valuable eyewitness experience to the life, acts and teaching of Jesus? It makes for a good reflection to imagine so many ‘behind the scenes’, anonymous followers of Jesus. I have heard that in our Catholic tradition of recognizing and canonizing ‘saints’, that for every one named among the Communion of Saints, there are ten thousand unnamed—holy women and men who simply went about their humble lives serving Christ and others without reward, recognition or maybe even respect. They walked humbly with their God, living devoted and pious lives obscurely.

Prayer for the Day:

Humility Prayer attributed to Sr Francis Drake:

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves; when our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little, when we arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess we have lost our thirst for the waters of life; having fallen too much in love with life, we have

ceased to dream of eternity and in our efforts to build a new earth, we have allowed our vision of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas with You, where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.

We ask You to push back

the horizons of our hopes; and to push into the future in strength, courage, hope, & love. Amen

Challenge for the Day:

We have all heard about random acts of kindness, or secret acts of mercy. What was your last good deed done that went totally unrecognized and unknown to everyone but God? Can we say it?!

Saint Matthias, Apostle

From Loyola Press

(<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/saints/saints-stories-for-all-ages/saint-matthias/>)

People may have been surprised when Matthias was elected to take the place of Judas among the apostles after Jesus' death and resurrection. The New Testament mentions Matthias only once, and that is in the account of how he was chosen to become one of the apostles.

After the death of Judas, the apostles met to elect someone to replace him. Peter presided at this meeting and reminded the others of the qualification necessary for being an apostle: The candidate had to have been a follower of Jesus Christ from the time of Jesus' baptism by John until his Ascension into heaven. Soon the choice was narrowed to two men: Joseph, so good and holy that he was known as Joseph the Just, and Matthias, also a very good and holy man. At this point it would seem as though

Joseph had an edge over Matthias, but God's ways aren't the same as our ways. After the apostles prayed for divine guidance, they cast lots and Matthias was chosen to share in the ministry of the apostles.

So Matthias became an apostle and a witness with the others to the Resurrection of Christ. Tradition links Matthias with the country of Ethiopia, where he is believed to have met his martyrdom. The known facts about the missionary work and martyrdom of Matthias are not many. What is known is that he loved Christ and that he lived and died to spread the Good News as far as possible.

Pray for Life

Here is the Pray for Life May 2020 Monthly Prayer Guide

[USCCB Pray for Life](#)