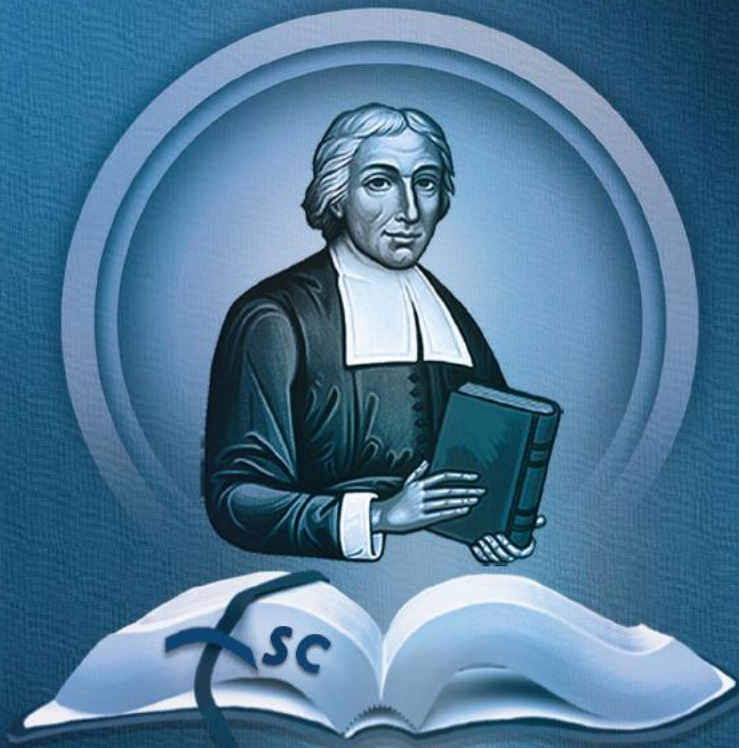




Brothers of  
the Christian  
Schools



# WORD OF GOD

IN THE EYES OF LASALLIANS

BIBLE DIARY **2023**

# **LASALLIAN SAINTS, BLESSEDS, VENERABLES & SERVANTS OF GOD**

## **14 LASALLIAN SAINTS**

Saint John Baptist De La Salle, (1651-1719) (Feast day: April 7),  
Our Holy Founder.

Saint Benildus Romançon, FSC, 1805-1862 (Feast day: August 13)

Saint Miguel Febres Cordero, FSC, 1854-1910 (Feast day: February 9)

Saint Mutien-Marie Wiaux, FSC, 1841-1917 (Feast day: January 30)

Saint Jaime Hilario Barbal, FSC, 1898-1937 (Feast day: October 9)

Saint Martyrs of Turón, 1934 (Feast day: October 9)

(St. Marciano Jose , St. Victoriano Pío ,St. Julian Alfredo, St. Benjamin Julian St. Augusto Andres, St. Ancieto Adolfo ,St. Benito de Jesus, St. Cirilo Bertan)

Saint Solomon Le Clercq, FSC, 1745-1792 (Feast day: September 2)

## **151 LASALLIAN BLESSED BROTHERS**

Blessed James Miller, FSC, 1944-1982 (Feast day: February 13)

Blessed Arnold Rèche, FSC, 1838-1890 (Feast day: October 23)

Blessed Scubilion Rousseau, FSC, 1797-1867 (Feast day: September 27)

Blessed Raphael Louis Rafiringa, FSC, 1856-1919 (Feast day: May 19)

3 Blessed Martyrs of the Rochefort, 1794 (Feast day: September 2)

7 Blessed Martyrs of Almeria, 1936 (Feast day: November 6)

5 Blessed Martyrs of Valencia, 1936 (Feast day: November 6)

44 Blessed Brothers of Barcelona, 1936 (Feast day: November 6)

5 Blessed Brothers of Santa Cruz de Múdela,  
1936 (Feast day: November 6)

4 Blessed Brothers of Consuegra, 1936 (Feast day: November 6)

5 Blessed Brothers of Lorca, 1936 (Feast day: November 6)

39 Blessed Brothers of Tarragona, 1936 (Feast day: November 6)

19 Blessed Brothers of the Madrid –Grinon,  
1936 (Feast day: November 6)

16 Blessed Brothers of the Madrid - Sagrado Corazón,  
1936 (Feast day: November 6)



29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Green

Year A

**First Reading: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6**

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him and the gates shall not be closed: For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other.

**Psalm 95:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10a,c**

*℟️ Give the Lord glory and power.*

O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.  
Tell among the nations his glory and  
his wonders among all the peoples. *℟️*

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,  
to be feared above all gods, the gods  
of the heathens are naught. It was the  
Lord who made the heavens. *℟️*

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,  
give the Lord glory and power,  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Bring an offering and enter his courts. *℟️*

Worship the Lord in his temple.  
O earth, tremble before him.  
Proclaim to the nations, "God is king."  
He will judge the peoples in fairness. *℟️*

**Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5**

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayer, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, You shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life.

# Sunday

## Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's and to God the things that are God's.



® Pope John Paul XXII has a long list of firsts. As Pope, he visited 129 countries and attracted the largest crowds in human history. He was the first pope to visit the White House and Egypt, met Queen Elizabeth II, and the first who visited and prayed in an Islamic mosque. On the question of doctrine, he condemned abortion, euthanasia and capital punishment; he opposed apartheid in South Africa and Mafia violence in Southern Italy and helped to end the Communist rule in Poland and in all Europe. He improved the Catholic Church's relations with Islam, Judaism, the Anglican Communion and the Eastern Orthodox Church. Here is a quotation from the Pope's visit to the United States in 1987 which will strike a chord with those acquainted with his thoughts and feelings. "Every human person – no matter how vulnerable or helpless, no matter how young or how old, no matter how healthy, handicapped or sick, no matter how useful or productive for society – is a being of inestimable worth created in the image and likeness of God. This is the dignity of America, the reason she exists, the condition for her survival-yes, the ultimate test of her greatness: to respect every human person, especially the weakest and most defenceless ones, those as yet unborn." Pope John Paul II had always been an athletic person, but in 2001, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. On April 2, 2005, he pronounced his final words "Allow me to depart to the house of the Father."

# 23

## OCTOBER

### MONDAY

29<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

### GREEN

LASALLIAN BLESSED

BL. ARNOLD RÈCHE



LA SALLE BROTHER

(1838-1890)

Brother Arnold Rèche was born in 1838 and beatified in 1987. He grew up in a poor family in France, working as a stableboy, coachman, and construction worker. He was drawn to the De La Salle Brothers because of his religious spirit. He joined them in 1862 when he was 34. He learned math, science, agriculture and religion while teaching at a boarding school in Rheims, the town in which the founder of the Brothers, St. John Baptist de La Salle, grew up. When France was at war in the 1870s, he cared for the wounded from both sides. The Brothers asked him to train their new members, and many held him in great esteem. He had the amazing ability to sense what others were thinking. The Brothers remembered him saying often that the Holy Spirit of God "strengthens a person's heart." When he died in Rheims in 1890, he had a reputation for holiness.

#### First Reading: Romans 4:20-25

Brethren: No unbelief made Abraham waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness". But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believer in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

#### Luke 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75

℟: *Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited his people.*

#### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

#### Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

At that time: Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over your?" And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of one's possessions." And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich towards God."

℟ It is not uncommon for Christians to try and escape from God. The poet Francis Thompson wrote a famous poem about it, entitled "The Hound of Heaven." I fled Him, down the nights and down the days; I fled Him, down the arches of the years; I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways Of my own mind; and in the mist of tears I hid from Him. The little piece that follows is a far cry from Thompson's literary skill but will hopefully get the point across in its own way. I have him all wrapped up, Neatly boxed, solved. There is no way in here. The doors locked and barred, 'Do Not Disturb' Prominently displayed. What's that scratching sound? A burglar picking the lock! What a nerve! Where's my cudgels? Call the police... Yes, that's the address... Please come quickly. Aha! They've arrived, In the nick of time. I am saved.

**First Reading: Romans 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21**

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore, just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, ...*(please see appendix Page 502)*

**Psalms 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17**

℟ See, *I have come, Lord, to do your will.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, Stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to stand before the Son of Man.

**Gospel: Luke 12:35-38**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves."

℞ We are advised in the Gospel reading for today to light our lamps and be ready to greet our Master. Light is a common word and theme in the scriptures, from Genesis "Let there be light" to the Gospel "You are the light of the world." There was no electric light in our house when I was growing up. We made do with a paraffin lamp. As with many children, I was afraid of the dark. The old folk filled our childish imaginations with tales of fairies, giants and goblins. Imaginations could sometimes run riot. Coming home from town, we had to leave the main road and walk for a kilometer down a side road, called a boreen. Walking this boreen alone and in the dark was a heart-stopper. The hedges grew high on each side and the shrub branches almost closed in or overhung in parts. For the first 200 metres there was no house or sign of habitation. The light of the first house or two was a relief but not for long. There was a patch of swampy ground to negotiate, and it was there that the goblins lived. They could beat you up or spirit you away. I would start to sprint well in advance, round the turn at speed and never look back. The light of our own house would be next, and it looked like the light of life. Let us run towards the light of the world, Love itself.



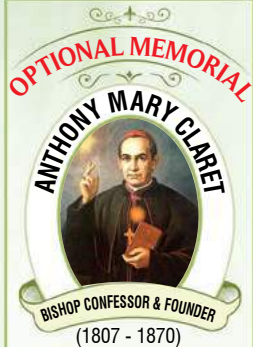
24

OCTOBER

TUESDAY

29<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

GREEN / WHITE



Born in Sallent, St. Anthony spent several years preaching to the people throughout Catalonia. He founded the congregation of Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Claretians). He established the Libreria Religiosa, whose purpose was to provide medals, rosaries, and other religious items. He successfully reformed the clergy and the laity and spread devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He was canonised on May 7, 1950 by Pope Pius XII.

# 25

## OCTOBER

### WEDNESDAY

29<sup>th</sup> Week in  
Ordinary Time

### GREEN

CRISPIN & CRISPINIAN

MARTYRS

(d. 286)

Crispin and Crispinian were brothers who preached Christianity to the Gaul by day and made shoes by night. They earned enough by their trade to support themselves and also to aid the poor. They refused to yield to the persecutors of the Faith who wanted Crispin and Crispinian to apostatize. They were both beheaded in Rome. They are the patron saints of cobblers, curriers, tanners, and leather workers.

**First Reading: Romans 6:12-18**

...(please see appendix Page 503)

**Psalm 124:1-3, 4-6, 7-8**

℟ *Our help is in the name of the Lord.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, Stay awake, and be ready; the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

**Gospel: Luke 12:39-48**

Jesus said to his disciples, "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour." Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for everyone?" And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and prudent manager whom his master will put in charge of his slaves, to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions. But if that slave says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and if he begins to beat the other slaves, men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect ... (please see appendix Page 503)

℟ "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more." As a rule, I am not into celebrity spotting. But there was one occasion I wasn't going to miss. I had heard that Mother Teresa was in town, in Hong Kong, and that she would give a talk. Her reputation had preceded her. She had become universally known and respected as a champion of the poorest of the poor and she led from the front. I went along and joined a large crowd that had gathered for the talk. Mother duly arrived and I still remember my first impressions. What was striking at first was that she looked so small, so frail. A puff of wind could blow her over. And yet, in that slender frame there beat a massively passionate heart for the poor and for the unborn. Then I saw that her face was lined and wrinkled, was almost haggard looking. But when she smiled, which was often, her face lit up like the sun rising. Strangely, what lingered longest in the memory was an item of clothing. She was wearing the simple blue and white garb of her congregation. As a protection against the cold weather, she also wore a cardigan. It was almost threadbare, a poor-looking thing, and seemed to me to be a symbol of her detachment from worldly possessions. I can still picture that cardigan. She delivered her talk, which had largely to do with promoting the culture of life, especially life in the womb. The child in the womb was obviously of far more import to her than any cardigan. Mother Teresa had been entrusted with something more and she was not going to let it go.

### First Reading: Romans 6:19–23

I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed?

### Psalms 1:1–2, 3, 4 and 6

*Blessed the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.*

### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord and be found in him.

### Gospel: Luke 12:49–53

Jesus said to his disciples, “I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

Ⓡ One of the key elements in Lasallian spirituality is the beautiful and constant reminder that we are in the holy presence of God. It is like a refrain going through La Salle’s writings: Since God is present everywhere have you adored him everywhere? All you need and all God wants of you is that you remain in his presence. To ensure that remembrance of the presence of God was part and parcel of school life, La Salle introduced the custom of a regular invocation: Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.” It is the custom to say this a number of times during the day. Surely a beautiful way to focus our lives. For La Salle, all prayer begins by putting yourself in God’s presence. There are different ways of doing this. La Salle recommends these three: God is present just where you are, since He is everywhere. God is present within us, since our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. God is present in the Church, as the house of prayer and of the Blessed Sacrament. La Salle sees many advantages when we try to live in God’s presence. It will help us to: drive away all evil and even useless thoughts from our minds kindle in our hearts the fire of the love of God bring us peace of mind and heart give life and flavour to our spiritual exercises And all this can be done whether we are walking about or sitting quietly. The practice of remembering the presence of God is our greatest happiness, the way to allow God to be master of your heart. “Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.”



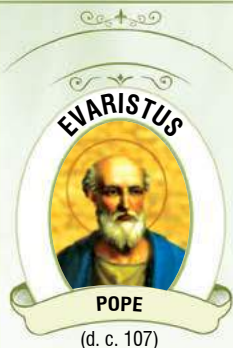
# 26

## OCTOBER

### THURSDAY

29<sup>th</sup> Week in  
Ordinary Time

### GREEN



Pope Evaristus was the bishop of Rome from c. 99 to his death c. 107. It is said that he divided the city of Rome into 25 parishes or titles, each under its own Presbyter. He also decreed that whenever the Pope preached he was to be surrounded by seven Deacons. He regulated the formal ceremonies for the consecration of the churches, which had been handed down from the Apostles.



# 27

## OCTOBER

### FRIDAY

29<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

### GREEN

FRUMENTIUS



BISHOP CONFESSOR

(c.308 - c.380)

St. Frumentius was the first bishop of Aksum, and is credited with bringing Christianity to the Kingdom of Aksum. He helped in a great capacity to bring Christianity to Ethiopia. He is noted for opening up trade between Ethiopia and the West. He convinced St. Athanasius to send missionaries from Alexandria. He is believed to have made the first translation of the New Testament into Ethiopian. He is the patron of Ethiopia.

#### First Reading: Romans 7:18-25a

For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ...*(please see appendix Page 503)*

#### Psalm 119:66, 68, 76, 77, 93, 94

℟️ *Teach me your statutes, O Lord.*

#### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have revealed to little children the mysteries of the kingdom.

#### Gospel: Luke 12:54-59

Jesus also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time? "And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? Thus, when you go with your accuser before a magistrate, on the way make an effort to settle the case, or you may be dragged before the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer throw you in prison. I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny."

℞ In Catholic Church tradition, going to confession means telling your sins to a priest and receiving forgiveness and absolution. Confession is one of the 7 sacraments of the church. In more recent times it has come to be called the sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation but "going to confession" is still a commonly used expression. I was at a pilgrimage site in Ireland and decided to take the opportunity of going to confession. There was a large reconciliation centre with a number of confessional boxes and a number of priests "hearing" and I took my place. I must have been feeling good because I had decided to make what is called a "general confession," to tell sins of one's past life as well as those of more recent vintage. I think making a general confession is only done occasionally. I guess it's like trying to wipe the slate clean. My turn came and after the initial rituals I began my tale. The priest said nothing until I had started talking about past misdeeds. Suddenly he said: "Forget about all those... they have all been taken care of ... God already knows all about them and they are long forgiven." Wow! I felt a tremendous lightness of spirit and got through the rest of the confession in a dream. Our Merciful Father had already taken all my past sins into his loving mercy. I was being told to start fresh!

**First Reading: Ephesians 2:19-22**

So, then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

**Psalms 19:2-3, 4-5**

*℟ Their sound goes forth through all the earth.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, We praise you, O God, we acknowledge you to be the Lord. The glorious company of the apostles praise you, O Lord.

**Gospel: Luke 6:12-16**

Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

℟ It must have taken some thought for St La Salle to write a meditation for the feast of Saints Simon and Jude. After all, we know almost nothing about them. Simon is called the Zealot, probably because of his zeal for the Law; while Jude was also called Thaddeus, possibly to distinguish him from Judas. Apart from that, all other stories about them are apocryphal. But St La Salle found a way, by concentrating on how they left the world in order to follow Jesus. St La Salle then goes on to warn us against adopting the spirit of the world and how we should be happy to have left its corrupting influences. We have some high-profile examples in history of persons who did this. St Augustine and Sr Francis of Assisi spring to mind. Both of them flirted with the world for years before seeing the light. How do we square this leaving of the world with the strong emphasis of people like Pope Francis that we should immerse ourselves in the world, especially at the peripheries, among the weak, the vulnerable and the afflicted? I presume it all has to do with attitude. If we have developed a mature attitude to the world of wealth, power and privilege, we will be able to face the "other world" where people cry for help. In our Lasallian world, we do not have to go far to encounter cries for help in our schools and educational centres.



28

OCTOBER

SATURDAY

29<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

RED

FEAST

SIMON & JUDE



APOSTLE & MARTYRS

(1st century)

Simon was one of the apostle of Jesus who was called Zealot because of his zeal for the Jewish law. He is thought to have preached in Egypt. He was supposedly martyred by being cut in half with a saw. St. Jude, known as Thaddeus was the one who asked Jesus at the Last Supper why He would not manifest Himself to the whole world after His resurrection. Legend claims that He was beaten to death with a club.