Apostles The foundation of our faith.



"Apostles - The foundation of our faith" tour.

HISTORY:

The word "Apostle" is from the Greek *apostello* "to send forth", "to dispatch", one who is entrusted with a mission, rather, a foreign mission.

It is evident that in a Christian sense, everyone who had received a mission from God, or Christ, could be called "Apostle". In fact, however, it was reserved to those of the disciples who received this title from Christ.

The Gospels point out that from the beginning of his ministry, Jesus called to him some men, and by a very diligent instruction and formation made them his disciples. After some time, in the Galilean ministry, he selected twelve whom, as Mark (3:14) and Luke (vi, 13) say, "he also named Apostles."

Two of the synoptic Gospels tells us of the appointment of the Twelve and gives brief statements on their office: Mark 3:14-15, "He appointed twelve to be with him and to send them to herald, and to have power to heal the illnesses and to cast out demons"; Matthew 10:1, "He gave them power over unclean spirits so as to expel them, and to heal every disease and every illness".

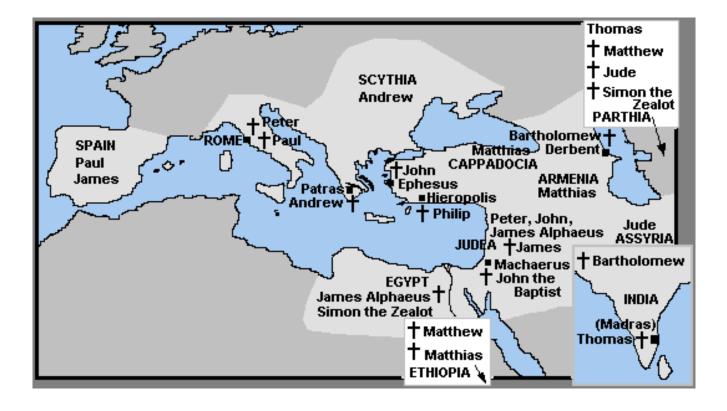
Jesus sent the Twelve to preach the kingdom and to heal, and gave them very definite instructions. Since the authority with which the Lord endowed the Apostles was given them for the entire Church it is natural that this authority should endure after their death, in other words, pass to successors established by the Apostles. In the oldest Christian documents concerning the primitive Churches we find ministers established, some of them, at least, by the usual rite of the imposition of hands.

We might say that the first religious community was the Apostolic College, the Twelve Apostles. They lived with Our Lord; they had left their families — for many of them were married — they left all their material goods, and dedicated themselves completely to our Divine Lord, forming a small religious community. The Apostles had responded to the call of Our Lord.

This term Apostolic College designates The Twelve Apostles as the body of men commissioned by Christ to spread the kingdom of God over the whole world and to give it the stability of a well-ordered society; to be the founders, the foundation, and pillars of the visible Church on earth. An Apostle is a missionary sent by God to bring the Gospel to new lands. When we speak of the Apostles as a "college", we imply that they worked together under one head and for one purpose.

During the Middle Ages it was believed that the Apostles, on the day of Pentecost, while still under the direct inspiration of the Holy Ghost, composed our present Creed between them, each of the Apostles contributing one of the twelve articles. "I believe in the communion of Saints", this profession from the Apostles Creed is recited by Christians of most denominations. Although many say this statement, how many really understand the deep significance of what they are reciting? The "Apostles - The foundation of our faith" tour was been created with the focus on educating the adult faithful and school children through public veneration and a well scripted lesson plan to the importance of the apostolic college. It could be said that if it were not for the Apostles the life of Christ would have passed into obscurity!

Enclosed within a beautiful standing reliquary are relics of the Apostles and Evangelists; St. Peter, St. Thomas, St. Barnabas, St. Matthias, St. Jude Thaddeus, St. John, St. Andrew, St. Philip, St. Simon, St. Bartholomew, St. Paul, St. Matthew, St. James the less, and St. James the greater.



St. Peter - Prince of the Apostles

While journeying along with His Apostles, Jesus asks them: "Whom do men say that the Son of man is?" The Apostles answered: "Some John the Baptist, and other some Elias, and others Jeremias, or one of the prophets". Jesus said to them: "But whom do you say that I am?" Simon said: "Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God". And Jesus answering said to him: "Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona: because flesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee, but my Father who is in heaven. And I say to thee: That thou art Peter [a rock], and upon this rock I will build my church , and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven. And whatsoever thou shalt bind upon



earth, it shall be bound also in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth, it shall be loosed also in heaven". Following the Ascension, Peter undertook an extensive missionary tour, and in the latter part of his life he labored in Rome. There, during the reign of the Emperor Nero, he was crucified with his head downwards, as he himself had desired.

• Peter, crucified upside-down in Rome circa 64 A.D.

Simon Peter, son of Jonas: Peter was martyred on the cross. Peter requested that he might be crucified head downward for he was not worthy to die as his Lord had died. His apostolic symbol is a cross upside down with crossed keys. The keys represent Peter as holder of the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Feastdays:

- 29 June (feast of Peter and Paul)
- 22 February (feast of the Chair of Peter, emblematic of the world unity of the Church)
- 1 August (Saint Peter in Chains)
- 18 November (feast of the dedication of the Basilicas of Peter and Paul)

Patronage:

- against fever •
- against foot problems
- against frenzy •
- bakers •
- bridge builders
- butchers

- clock makers
- cobblers
- fishermen
- harvesters
- locksmiths
- net makers
- popes

- Rome, Italy •
- ship builders •
- shipwrights
- shoemakers
- stone masons
- Universal Church
- watch makers

Prayer to Saint Peter

O Glorious Saint Peter, because of your vibrant and generous faith, sincere humility and flaming love our Lord honored you with singular privileges and especially leadership of the whole Church. Obtain for us the grace of a living faith, a sincere loyalty to the Church, acceptance of all her teaching, and obedience to all her precepts. Let us thus enjoy an undisturbed peace on earth and everlasting happiness in heaven.

- longevity
- papacy

St. Thomas



St. Thomas is remembered for his doubt when the other Apostles announced Christ's Resurrection to him: "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe" (John 20:25); but eight days later he made his act of faith, drawing down the rebuke of Jesus: "Because thou hast seen me, Thomas, thou hast believed; blessed are they that have not seen, and have believed" (John 20:29). Best known for his unwillingness to believe that the other Apostles had seen the Risen Christ on the first

Easter Sunday. According to tradition he was sent to evangelize to the Parthians, Medes, and Persians; he ultimately reached India carrying the faith to the Malabar coast, which still boasts a large native population calling themselves the "Christians of Saint Thomas." He was speared to death at a place called Calamine.

• Thomas was killed by a spear in Mylapore, Madras, India in AD 72.

Thomas: He was killed with a spear as a martyr for his Lord. His symbol is a group of spears, stones and arrows.

Feastday: 3 July

Patronage:

- against blindness
- against doubt
- architects
- blind people
- builders

- construction workers
- geometricians
- masons
- people in doubt
- stone masons

- stonecutters
- surveyors
- theologians

Prayer to Saint Thomas the Apostle

O Glorious Saint Thomas, your grief for Jesus was such that it would not let you believe he had risen unless you actually saw him and touched his wounds. But your love for Jesus was equally great and it led you to give up your life for him. Pray for us that we may grieve for our sins which were the cause of Christ's sufferings. Help us to spend ourselves in his service and so earn the title of "blessed" which Jesus applied to those who would believe in him without seeing him. Amen.

St. Barnabas



Barnabas (originally Joseph), styled an Apostle in Holy Scripture, and, like St. Paul, ranked by the Church with the Twelve, though not one of them was born of Jewish parents in the Island of Cyprus about the beginning of the Christian Era.

Little is known of the subsequent life of Barnabas. He was still living and laboring as an Apostle in 56 or 57, when Paul wrote First Corinthians (9:5-6). from which we learn that he, too, like Paul, earned his own living, though on an equality with other Apostles. The reference indicates also that the friendship between the two was unimpaired. When Paul was a prisoner in Rome (61-63), John Mark was attached to him as a disciple, which is regarded as an indication that Barnabas was no longer living

(Colossians 4:10). This seems probable.

Feastday: 11 June

Patronage:

- against hailstorms
- invoked as peacemaker

We are tempted to think of the Allied invasion on D-Day in 1944 as the greatest invasion of Europe. The Allied invasion contained the greatest number of ships and men that the world has ever seen – but the invasion that effected the greatest change in Europe and the most lasting influence for good was the invasion by the Apostles in 50 A.D. Europe's art and literature, its architecture, its music – indeed, its whole culture and moral life for over two thousand years have borne the stamp of that early invasion of four men with burning zeal.

St. Matthias



Matthias was one of the seventy disciples of Jesus, and had been with Him from His baptism by John to the Ascension (Acts i, 21, 22). It is related (Acts, i, 15-26) that in the days following the Ascension, Peter proposed to the assembled brethren, who numbered one hundred and twenty, that they choose one to fill the place of the traitor Judas in the Apostolate. Two disciples, Joseph, called Barsabas, and Matthias were selected, and lots were drawn, with the result in favor of Matthias, who thus became associated with the eleven Apostles. Matthias was chosen to take the place of Judas. He is believed to have met his death in Jerusalem. His relics removed by St. Helena are now venerated at St. Matthias' Abbey, in Trier.

• Matthias, Judas' replacement, was stoned and beheaded.

Matthias: Chosen to take the place of Judas among the Apostles. His symbol is the lance. It is an old tradition that Saint Matthias was martyred in southern Asia with such a weapon.

Feastday: 14 May

Patronage:

- against alcoholism
- against smallpox
- carpenters

- reformed alcoholics
- tailors

Prayer to Saint Matthias the Apostle

O Glorious Saint Matthias, in God's design it fell upon you to take the place of the unfortunate Judas who betrayed his Master. You were selected by the twofold sign of the uprightness of your life and the call of the Holy Spirit.

Obtain for us the grace to practice the same uprightness of life and to be called by that same Spirit to wholehearted service of the Church. Then after a life of zeal and good works let us be ushered into your company in heaven to sing forever the praises of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

St. Jude Thaddeus

Jude is invoked in desperate situations because his New Testament letter stresses that the faithful should persevere in the environment of harsh, difficult circumstances, just as their forefathers had done before them. Therefore, he is the patron saint of desperate cases. Brother of James the Less, and a relative of Jesus. Ancient writers tell us that he preached the Gospel in Judea, Samaria, Indumaea, Syria, and Mesopotamia. The Apostle is said to have suffered martyrdom in Armenia then subject to Persia.



• Saint Jude was crucified.

Jude, Thaddeus, or Lebbeus, son of Alpheus or Cleophas and Mary: The chosen symbol for him is the ship because he was a missionary thought to be a fisherman.

Feastdays:

- 28 October (Roman Church)
- 19 June (Eastern Church)

Patronage:

- desperate situations
- forgotten causes
- hospital workers

- hospitals
- impossible causes
- lost causes

Prayer to Saint Jude

Most holy Apostle Saint Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor who delivered the beloved Master into the hands of His enemies has caused you to be forgotten by many, but the Church honors and invokes you universally as the patron of hopeless cases, of things almost despaired of. Pray for me, I am so helpless and alone. Make use I implore you, of that particular privilege given to you, to bring visible and speedy help, where help is almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need, that I may receive the consolations and help of Heaven in all my necessities, tribulations and sufferings, particularly *your request* and that I may bless God with you and all the elect forever.

I promise, O blessed Saint Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor, to always honor you as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you. Amen.



After the Resurrection John with Peter was the first of the disciples to hasten to the grave and he was the first to believe that Christ had truly risen (John, xx, 2-10). When later Christ appeared at the Lake of Genesareth John was also the first of the seven disciples present who recognized his Master standing on the shore (John, xxi, 7). The Fourth Evangelist has shown us most clearly how close the relationship was in which he always stood to his Lord and Master by the title with which he is accustomed to indicate himself without giving his name: "the disciple whom Jesus loved". Brother of James the Great became known as the "beloved disciple." He was the only

disciple not to have suffered martyrdom and lived to an extreme old age.

• John, son of Zebedee, natural causes due to old age, last of the twelve to die, only one of the twelve to die naturally (As mentioned by Christ at the end of his [John] Gospel.)

John, Son of Zebedee and Salome: It is said that an attempt was made on his life by giving him a chalice of poison from which God spared him. A chalice with a snake in it is his symbol.

Feastdays:

- 27 December (Roman Catholic)
- 8 May (Greek Orthodox)
- 6 May (before the Latin gate)

Patronage:

- against burns
- against poisoning
- art dealers
- authors
- bookbinders
- booksellers
- burn victims

- compositors
- editors
- engravers
- friendships
- lithographers
- painters
- papermakers

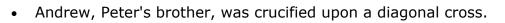
- printers
- publishers
- tanners
- theologians
- typesetters
- writers

Prayer to Saint John the Evangelist

O Glorious Saint John, you were so loved by Jesus that you merited to rest your head upon his breast, and to be left in his place as a son to Mary. Obtain for us an ardent love for Jesus and Mary. Let me be united with them now on earth and forever after in heaven.

St. Andrew - Brother of Peter

As one of the Twelve, Andrew was admitted to the closest familiarity with Our Lord during His public life; he was present at the Last Supper; beheld the risen Lord; witnessed the Ascension; shared in the graces and gifts of the first Pentecost, and helped, amid threats and persecution, to establish the Faith in Palestine. He was a disciple of John the Baptist and the first to be called to Christ's apostleship. He is said to have evangelized Asia Minor and Greece and to have been crucified on an X-shaped cross at Patras.



Andrew: Since he was crucified on an X-shaped cross (which

is called "Saint Andrew's cross) this is one of his symbols and a symbol of two crossed fish has also been applied to Andrew, because he was formerly a fisherman.

Feastday:

• 30 November

Patronage:

- against gout
- against sore throats
- anglers
- fish dealers
- fish mongers

- fishermen
- maidens
- old maids
- single lay women
- singers

- Spanish armed forces
- spinsters
- unmarried women
- women who wish to become mothers

Prayer to Saint Andrew the Apostle

O Glorious Saint Andrew, you were the first to recognize and follow the Lamb of God. With your friend Saint John you remained with Jesus for that first day, for your entire life, and now throughout eternity.

As you led your brother Saint Peter to Christ and many others after him, draw us also to him. Teach us to lead others to Christ solely out of love for him and dedication in his service. Help us to learn the lesson of the Cross and to carry our daily crosses without complaint so that they may carry us to Jesus.



St. Philip



He may have been a disciple of John the Baptist and is mentioned as one of the Apostles in the lists of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and in Acts. Aside from the lists, he is mentioned only in John in the New Testament. He was called by Jesus Himself and brought Nathanael to Christ. Philip was present at the miracle of the loaves and fishes, when he engaged in a brief dialogue with the Lord, and was the Apostle approached by the Hellenistic Jews from Bethsaida to introduce them to Jesus. Just before the Passion, Jesus answered Philip's query to show them the Father. Philip was born in Bethsaida, Galilee. He was a disciple of John the Baptist, and introduced Bartholomew to Christ. According to tradition he preached in Greece and was crucified under the Emperor Domitian.

• Philip was crucified in 54 A.D.

Philip: The symbol of Philip is a basket, because of his part in the feeding of the five thousand. It is he that stressed the cross as a sign of Christianity and victory.

Feastdays:

- 3 May (Roman calendar)
- (formerly 1 May)
- 14 November (Greek calendar)

Patronage:

- hat makers
- milliners
- pastry chefs

Prayer to Saint Philip

O Glorious Saint Philip, at the Last Supper you said to Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father and it will be enough for us." Help us to make this our prayer also and to seek God in all things. Obtain for us the grace to know the Father and Jesus Christ whom he has sent - for in this does eternal life consist.

St. Simon

In the New Testament he is sometimes called Simon the Zealot because of the zeal he showed for the Mosaic law which he practiced before his call. In the gospels he is surnamed the "Cananean" or "the zealot". His name appears only in the lists of the Apostles. Tradition places the scene of his labors in Egypt and Mesopotamia, but nothing positive can be stated about his life. He is believed to have been sawn into two.

• Simon the Zealot was crucified in 74 A.D.



Simon, The Zealot: His apostolic symbol is a fish lying on a Bible, which indicates he was a former fisherman who became a fisher of men through preaching.

Feastdays:

- 28 October (Roman Church)
- 10 May (Coptic Church)

Patronage:

- curriers
- sawyers
- tanners

Prayer to Saint Simon the Apostle

O Glorious Saint Simon, you were a cousin of Jesus and a devoted follower as well. You were called "the Zealot," indicating that you were willing to give your life for your religion and your freedom as a human person. Obtain for us the grace to be willing to give our lives for Christ and to labor for the freedom and peace that only God can give. Help us to spend ourselves for God on earth and be received by him in eternal bliss in heaven. Amen.

St. Bartholomew



Many scholars identify him with Nathaniel (John, i, 45-51; xxi, 2). The manner of his death, said to have occurred at Albanopolis in Armenia, is equally uncertain; according to some, he was beheaded, according to others, flayed alive and crucified, head downward, by order of Astyages, for having converted his brother, Polymius, King of Armenia. On account of this latter legend, he is often represented in art (e.g. in Michelangelo's Last Judgment) as flayed and holding in his hand his own skin. Scholars believe that he is the same as Nathanael mentioned in John, who says he is from Cana. He is said to have preached in Asia Minor, India and Greater Armenia and to have been flayed alive.

• Bartholomew (also known as Nathaniel) was flayed alive (skinned) and then beheaded; some sources locate his death at Derbend on the Caspian Sea.

Bartholomew: Because he was flayed alive with knives his apostolic symbol is three parallel knives.

Feastdays:

- 24 August (Roman calendar)
- 11 June (Orthodox calendar)

Patronage:

- against nervous diseases
- against neurological diseases
- against twitching
- bookbinders
- butchers

- cobblers
- Florentine cheese merchants
- Florentine salt merchants
- leather workers
- plasterers

- shoemakers
- tanners
- trappers
- whiteners

St. Paul

Paul's letters clarify how the Apostolic Church under the influence of the Holy Spirit spoke of believers as "saints," whether living or dead. Saint Paul, also called Paul the Apostle, the Apostle Paul or Paul of Tarsus was a Hellenistic Jew, who called himself the "Apostle to the Gentiles", and was, together with Saint Peter and James the Just, the most notable of early Christian missionaries.

Paul arrived in Rome *c* AD 60 and spent two years under house arrest. Tradition has said that Paul was beheaded, while Peter was



crucified. This account fits with the report from Acts that Paul was a Roman citizen and would have been accorded the more merciful execution of death by the sword.

Feastdays:

- 25 January (celebration of his conversion)
- 16 February (Saint Paul Shipwrecked)
- 29 June (celebration of Saint Peter and Saint Paul as co-founders of the Church)
- 18 November (feast of the dedication of the Basilicas of Peter and Paul)

Patronage:

- against snakes
- authors
- Catholic Action
- evangelists
- against hailstorms
- hospital public relations
- journalists
- lay people

- missionary bishops
- musicians
- newspaper editorial staff
- against poisonous snakes
- public relations personnel
- public relations work
- publishers
- reporters

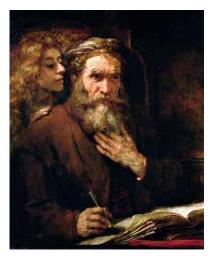
- rope braiders
- rope makers
- saddle makers
- against snake bites
- tent makers
- writers

Prayer to Saint Paul the Apostle

O Glorious Saint Paul, after persecuting the Church you became by God's grace its most zealous Apostle. To carry the knowledge of Jesus, our divine Savior, to the uttermost parts of the earth you joyfully endured prison, scourgings, stonings, and shipwreck, as well as all manner of persecutions culminating in the shedding of the last drop of your blood for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Obtain for us the grace to labor strenuously to being the faith to others and to accept any trials and tribulations that may come our way. Help us to be inspired by your Epistles and to partake of your indomitable love for Jesus, so that after we have finished our course we may join you in praising him in heaven for all eternity. Amen.

St. Matthew - The author of the first gospel.



When summoned by Jesus, Matthew arose and followed Him and tendered Him a feast in his house, where tax-gatherers and sinners sat at table with Christ and His disciples. This drew forth a protest from the Pharisees whom Jesus rebuked in these consoling words: "I came not to call the just, but sinners". Before he was called to be an Apostle he was a tax collector. His apostolic activity was at first restricted to the communities of Palestine. Nothing definite is known about his later life but tradition points to Ethiopia as his field of labor. It is uncertain whether he died a natural death or received the crown of martyrdom.

• Matthew killed by a halberd (two-handed pole weapon) in 60 A.D.

Matthew, or Levi, son of Alpheus: The apostolic symbol of Matthew is three money bags which remind us that he was a tax collector before Jesus called him.

Feastdays:

- 21 September
- 6 May (translation of his relics)

Patronage:

- accountants
- bankers
- bookkeepers
- customs officers
- financial officers
- guards
- money managers
- security forces
- security guards
- stock brokers
- tax collectors

Prayer to Saint Matthew the Apostle

O Glorious Saint Matthew, in your Gospel you portray Jesus as the longed-for Messiah who fulfilled the Prophets of the Old Covenant and as the new Lawgiver who founded a Church of the New Covenant. Obtain for us the grace to see Jesus living in his Church and to follow his teachings in our lives on earth so that we may live forever with him in heaven. Amen.

St. James the less - son of Alphaeus of Cleophas.



St. Paul tells us he was a witness of the Resurrection of Christ; he is also a "pillar" of the Church, whom St. Paul consulted about the Gospel. His mother Mary was either a sister or close relative of the Blessed Virgin and for that reason, according to Jewish custom, he was sometimes called the brother of the Lord. He became the first Bishop of Jerusalem. He was martyred in Jerusalem by being thrown from a pinnacle of the temple then stoned to death.

• James, son of Alphaeus, beaten to death by a club after being crucified and stoned.

James, the Lesser or Younger, son of Alpheus and Mary:

Because his body was sawed in pieces, the saw became his apostolic symbol.

Feastday:

• 3 May

Patronage:

- apothecaries
- druggists
- dying people
- fullers
- hatters
- milliners
- pharmacists

Prayer to Saint James the Lesser

O Glorious Saint James, you were our Lord's cousin and at the same time his friend and follower. You wrote that every good and perfect gift comes to us from the Father of lights, and that faith without works is useless. You preached the divinity of Jesus until your death as a martyr. Obtain for us from the Father of lights the great gift of a living faith in Jesus' divinity which will inspire us to unstinting labor in the service of God and our fellow human beings and enable us to reach our heavenly destiny. Amen.

St. James the greater - Brother of John.

In all four lists the names of Peter and Andrew, James and John form the first group, a prominent and chosen group (cf. Mark, xiii, 3); especially Peter, James, and John. These three Apostles alone were admitted to be present at the miracle of the raising of Jairus's daughter (Mark, v, 37; Luke, viii, 51), at the Transfiguration (Mark, ix, 1; Matt., xvii, 1; Luke, ix, 28), and the Agony in Gethsemani (Matt., xxvi, 37; Mark, xiv, 33). As with Peter, James and John were the only ones that Jesus gave a special name; "Sons of Thunder." He was the first of the Twelve to be martyred under Herod Agrippa.



• James, son of Zebedee was beheaded in 44 A.D., first of the twelve to die.

James, the Elder, Son of Zebedee and Salome: His symbol is three shells, the sign of his pilgrimage by the sea.

Feastdays:

- 25 July
- formerly 5 August

Patronage:

- against arthritis
- against rheumatism
- apothecaries
- arthritis sufferers
- blacksmiths
- druggists
- equestrians

- furriers
- horsemen
- knights
- laborers
- pharmacists
- pilgrims
- rheumatoid sufferers

- riders
- soldiers
 - Spanish conquistadors
- tanners
- veterinarians

Prayer to Saint James the Greater

O Glorious Saint James, because of your fervor and generosity Jesus chose you to witness his glory on the Mount and his agony in the Garden. Obtain for us strength and consolation in the unending struggles of this life. Help us to follow Christ constantly and generously, to be victors over all our difficulties, and to receive the crown of glory in heaven. Amen.

QUESTIONS

1. What does apostle mean?

2. How many apostles were there?

3. How did St. Matthew die?

4. What is the apostolic symbol of St. Simon?

5. Who wrote the creed?

6. What is the apostolic college?

7. Who is the Patron Saint of writers?

8. When is the Feast day of St. Thomas the Apostle?

9. Who was St. Barnabas special friend?

10. Who is the Elder, Son of Zebedee and Salome?

11. Which Apostles went to Armenia?

12. Who was a tax collector before Christ called him?

Application for membership in the FRIENDS OF THE SAINTS.

Enrollee Name:	
Date of Birth:	Patron saint:
Mailing address:	
Street:	
City:	
State: Parish:	
Zip code: Country	/:
Telephone number:	
E-mail address:	
Parental permission for youth and teen: \Box	
Would you like to receive the FSC e-newsletter? Yes \Box No thanks \Box	
Personal prayer petition	