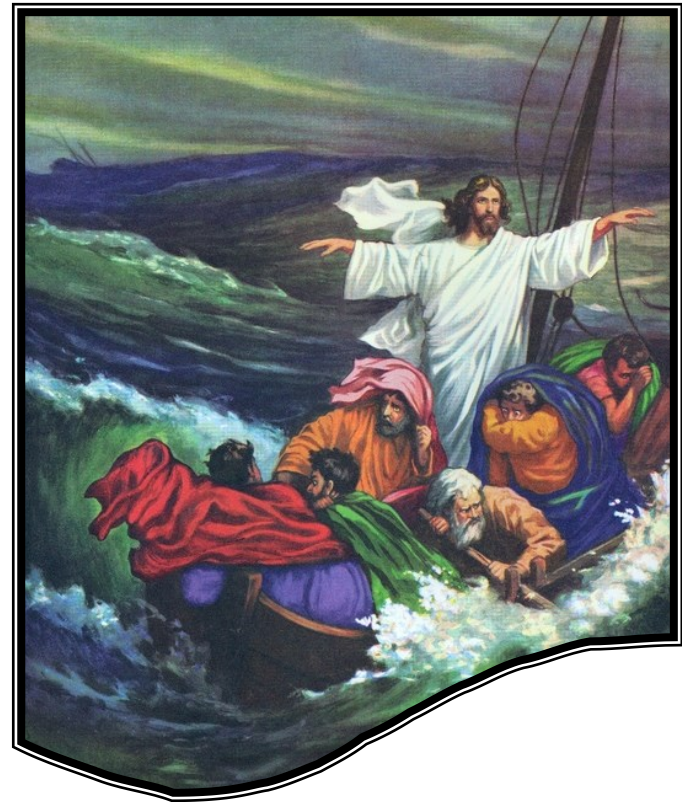


YOUNG FOLKS SERIES

Child's
History of the Apostles



BY

RODERICK MacEACHEN
PRIEST OF COLUMBUS DIOCESE

NIHIL OBSTAT,

William Hall, Censor Deputatus.

IMPRIMATUR

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to nail him on the cross with his head down and his feet up. He said that he was not worthy to die with his head up like our Lord's had been. So the soldiers nailed Saint Peter head downward on the cross.

Thus both holy Apostles were martyrs. They died for the holy Faith we love so dearly.

The grandest church in the world stands on the spot where Saint Peter died. It is the great church of Saint Peter's. The Pope lives beside this great church. All the Popes have lived there almost since the time of Saint Peter.

We are happy indeed when we think of the great and holy men that loved our holy Faith. It makes us try to love our holy Faith more than ever. We are proud to belong to the holy Catholic Church. For it was started by our Lord Himself. The Apostles were the first bishops and priests of our holy Church. Saint Peter was our first Pope.

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By

Roderick MacEachen

Saint Paul was taken first. They took him outside the city. There by the roadside they cut off his head. It is said that Saint Paul's head bounced twice after it struck the ground. Three fountains sprung up where it struck. The place is called Three Fountains now. There is a beautiful church built on the spot.



SAINT PETER IS PUT TO DEATH

Saint Peter was then led out to be killed. He was to be nailed to a cross. Our Lord had told Saint Peter once that he would die on a cross.

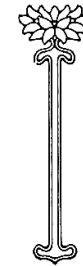
The soldiers made a big cross. They took Saint Peter up on one of the hills in Rome. They got ready to nail him to the cross.

Saint Peter was happy when he saw the cross. He was glad that he was going to die like our Lord had died. But he begged the soldiers to grant him one favor. He asked them

CHILD'S HISTORY OF THE APOSTLES

By
RODERICK MacEACHEN

Priest of Columbus Diocese



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A Word to My Little Readers



Little children, you are going to read about the Apostles. You will see how holy they were. You will see how much good they did.

You will learn many fine things about the Apostles. You will learn how our holy Faith was spread in the beginning. You will learn how our holy Church was in the beginning.

The Apostles loved God very much. They loved our holy Faith. We can learn from their lives. They show us how we should live. They show us how we should love our holy Faith.

The Apostles are now happy with God. They pray to Him for you and me. Surely their good prayers will help us to love God more than ever.

Your devoted friend,

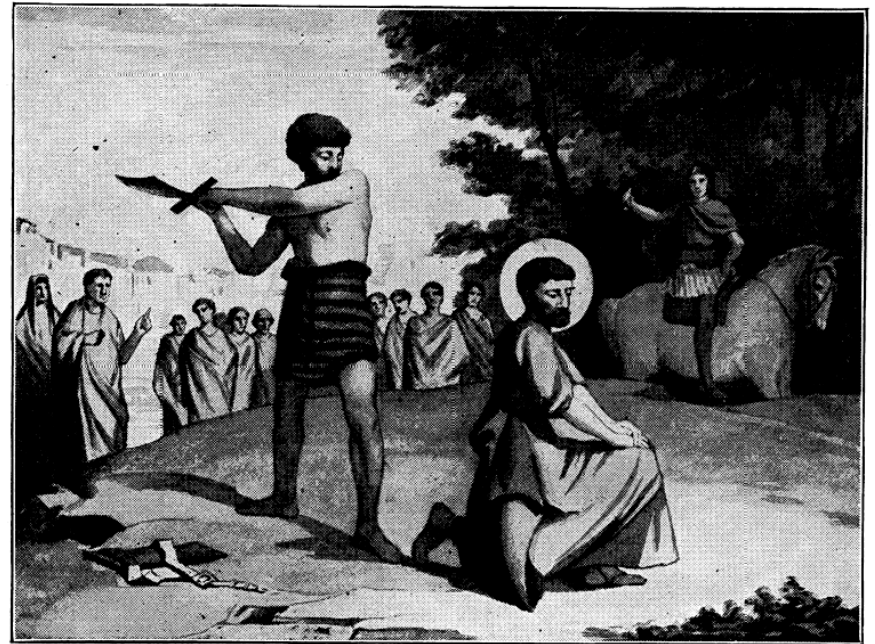
THE AUTHOR.

Barton, Ohio,
Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, 1916.

CHAPTER XXVII

THE DEATH OF SAINT PETER AND SAINT PAUL

Saint Peter and Saint Paul were happy in their dark dungeon. They prayed together day and night. Their hands and feet were chained. But their hearts were free to love God.



SAINT PAUL IS PUT TO DEATH

At last the time came. The two apostles were to be put to death. They were not afraid to die. They had lived for God. Now they were ready to go to Him. They were sorry to leave the people who loved them. But they were glad to leave the wicked world.

CHAPTER XXVI

SAINT PETER AND SAINT PAUL

Saint Peter must have been very glad to meet Saint Paul when he came to Rome. Of course he was sorry that Saint Paul was a prisoner. In Rome they often met each other. They worked together. They helped each other.

Saint Paul had been put into a prison. It was called the Mamertine prison. Soon Saint Peter was thrown into this same prison. He and Saint Paul were together there.

The people had feared that the cruel Emperor was going to arrest Saint Peter. So they begged him to leave the city. But Saint Peter did not want to go. He was ready to suffer for Christ. But the people loved him. He was the head of the Church. He was the Pope. So they kept on begging him to save himself. At last Saint Peter had to give in. He started to leave the city. It was night. Saint Peter was walking along the road. But our Lord met him at the gate of the city. Saint Peter was very much surprised to see our Lord. Our Lord had shown Himself to Saint Peter. Saint Peter asked our Lord where He was going. Our Lord told him He was going into the city to be nailed to the cross again.

Our Lord wanted Saint Peter to know that He did not like to see him running away. That is why He said He was going to be nailed to the cross again. Saint Peter knew what our Lord meant. So he turned back. He was not afraid to die. He was glad to die for our holy Faith.

Saint Peter went back into the city. Then it was they put him in prison with Saint Paul. The two Apostles were in prison eight months together. It was a dark place. It was deep down in the ground. It was built of thick stone walls. There was only one small hole to let in a little light.

The world hated the holy Apostles. But God loved them. They suffered much here. But now they are happy in heaven with God.

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All this Saint Paul was glad to suffer for our holy Faith. God blessed him for it in many ways. He had a vision once. God allowed him to get a glimpse of heaven. So he used to long to be with God.

Saint Paul wrote many letters. They are a part of the Bible. They are called the Epistles of Saint Paul.

Saint Paul had labored many years. Then he was taken in chains to Rome. Here he was a prisoner for two years. But he was allowed to preach to the people. Two guards went with him all the time. One of them was chained to him.

The Christians at Rome were glad when they heard Saint Paul was coming. Many of them went out along the road to meet him. They were happy to see this holy man who had labored and suffered so much for our holy Faith.

Saint Paul was set free. But soon he was thrown into prison again. Even in prison he drew many people to God. His jailer became a Christian. It is said that a spring of water came up in the prison. From this spring Saint Paul baptized the jailer. There was no water there before that.

Saint Paul was glad to be a prisoner for our holy Faith. For two years he wore chains on his wrists. Sometimes he had chains on his feet too. This shows us how much Saint Paul loved God. He was sorry for those wicked men who were unkind to him. He loved them. He hoped to draw them to God. He was a true and holy bishop of the Catholic Church.

CHAPTER XXV

TRIALS OF SAINT PAUL

The Apostles all suffered much for the Faith. They were poor. They walked thousands of miles. They were whipped and beaten. They were put to death. But none suffered more than Saint Paul.



SAINT PAUL IN A STORM

Saint Paul worked very hard for many years. Several times he was put in prison. He was whipped five times. Each time they struck him thirty-nine times. He fell into rivers. He was attacked by robbers. He was given up by false friends.

Saint Paul often felt bitter hunger. At times he had nothing to eat. At other times he suffered from cold. For then he had no clothes to wear.

Three times Saint Paul was in a shipwreck. He swam about in the sea all day and all night. Three times he was beaten with rods.

Child's History of the Apostles

CHAPTER I

THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY GHOST

Our Lord had gone up to heaven. The Apostles went back to Jerusalem. They were afraid of the Jews. So they got a room upstairs in a house. They kept themselves locked in this room all the time. They were afraid to go out.

The Apostle Peter stood up and spoke to them. He was the chief of the Apostles. He said: "Men, brothers, the Scriptures must be fulfilled. It was long ago foretold about Judas. The Holy Ghost told it through the mouth of David. Judas led those who arrested Jesus. He was one of us. He was to be a priest as we are. He is indeed buried in the potter's field. When he hanged himself he burst in the middle. His insides came out. Hence we must choose some one to take his place." Then they chose Matthias. So there were twelve Apostles there.

They remembered what Jesus had told them. They were waiting for the Holy Ghost to come. They had been locked up in this room for ten days. All at once they heard a great noise. It was like a mighty wind blowing.

Then the Holy Ghost came down upon them. It happened this way. Tongues of fire came down and stood upon each Apostle's head. This was the form which the Holy Ghost took.

The Holy Ghost is God. He can take any form He wishes.

The Blessed Virgin Mary and other holy women were with the Apostles when the Holy Ghost came down.

During all these days they all prayed together. They thought of all the wonderful things Jesus had done for them. Their minds were all turned toward God.

The Apostles had received the Holy Ghost. Now they began to speak many languages. The Holy Ghost gave them this power. The Apostles had to preach the Gospel to all nations. They had no time to learn all the languages. So the Holy Ghost worked a great miracle for them. They could now go out and preach to all kinds of people.



THE COMING OF THE HOLY GHOST

It is wonderful how God helped the Apostles. God the Holy Ghost came upon them. They could now teach the people God's holy Truth. The Holy Ghost will stay with the Catholic Church until the end of the world.

How happy we are to belong to this holy Church. Our holy Church started on this day. It was just ten days after our Lord went up to heaven. The day is called Pentecost.

The Catholic Church teaches the same today as it taught on that day. Every priest teaches just the same as the Apostles taught. We are blessed indeed to have this holy teaching. God was good to us when He made us members of the Catholic Church.

miracles. God gave them power to do those wonderful things. There were more miracles worked in the beginning than there are now. God wanted to give the people a sign. He wanted to help them to believe. The people don't need a sign from God now.

The Catholic Church has been teaching in our Lord's name for nineteen hundred years. It is spread over the whole world. It takes care of the sick. It takes care of the orphans. It turns savages into good people. It teaches the same all over the world. It teaches the truths that the Apostles taught. That is a sign for all the people. We know that our holy Church is from God. All the people in the world can know this. They need only look at her good works.

CHAPTER XXIV

SAINT PETER AND SIMON MAGUS

Simon Magus was a magician. He did great things amongst the people. He tried to make them believe that he was from God. After awhile Simon believed in God. Then he was baptized.

Then he saw the wonderful things that the Apostles did. Simon wanted to have the same power. So he offered money to Saint Peter. He wanted to buy the power from Saint Peter. But Saint Peter said: "Keep your money. You have no part in this. Your heart is not right in the sight of God."

Later on Simon went to Rome. There he made the people believe he had great power. For he used magic and tricks before them.

Saint Peter made up his mind to show the people the truth about Simon. He saw that the people were being fooled by him.

Simon thought he could hold out against Saint Peter. So he told the people that he could raise a dead man to life. But he said Saint Peter could not do it. They brought in a dead man. A crowd gathered around to see it. Even the Emperor was there. Simon tried to call the dead man back to life. But, of course, he couldn't. Then Saint Peter raised the man to life.

The people saw that Simon had fooled them. They were very angry. They wanted to stone him to death. But Saint Peter stopped them. He would not let them touch Simon.

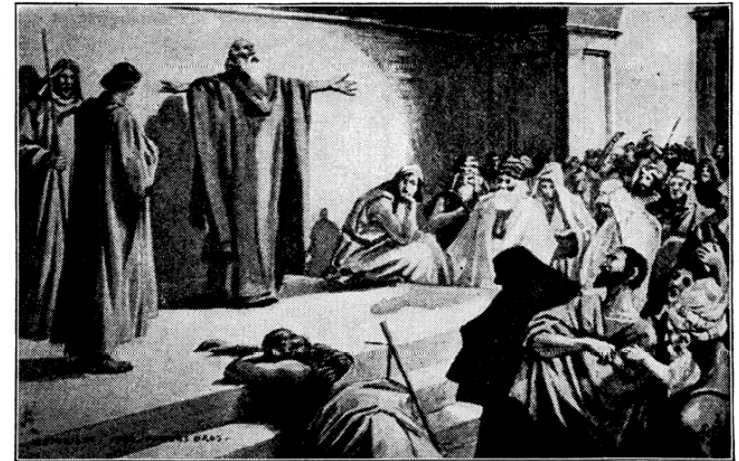
Simon thought he would try again to make the people believe in him. He said he would fly to heaven. He went up on the top of a house. But when he tried to fly, he fell down and was killed.

Saint Peter had power from God. He could work miracles. All the Apostles worked miracles. Many saints worked

CHAPTER II

SAINT PETER PREACHES TO THE PEOPLE

It was Pentecost. It was the day on which the Holy Ghost came down. The Apostles went out. Now they were not afraid. They had received the Holy Ghost.



SAINT PETER PREACHING ON PENTECOST

The city was filled with people of many nations at that time. These people spoke many different languages. They were surprised indeed when they heard the Apostles speak. For they all understood the Apostles. It was just as though the Apostles spoke in all the languages at once. No matter what language they spoke, the people understood. These people wondered very much at this.

Then Saint Peter rose up to preach. The other eleven Apostles were with him. He spoke to all the people. "Ye men of Israel," he said, "hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth

worked many miracles and signs amongst you. You know that God did these things through him. This Jesus was condemned by you. By your hands He was crucified. God knew that you would do this.



SAINT PETER

“This Jesus rose up again. We all saw Him alive. Now He sits at the right hand of God the Father. He has sent the Holy Ghost upon us. This He promised to do. It is the Holy Ghost in us that you see and hear today. All you men of Israel must know that this Jesus was Christ the Lord.”

Those that believed would tell others. Then they too would come to Saint Peter. Often they would become Christians as soon as they heard about our Lord. So the number of Christians grew all the time.

Some of these Christians were of noble birth. Some of them were princes. Others were slaves. But they all prayed together. The master and his slaves would kneel side by side. They would receive Holy Communion together. This is the way it has always been in the Catholic Church.

The poor and the rich are equal before God. Our Lord was poor. Saint Joseph and the Blessed Virgin were poor. Our holy Church wants to save the rich and the poor. She loves them all. They are all alike when they kneel before our altars.

It must have been hard for Saint Peter to teach those proud Romans. But they became humble when they believed in our holy Faith.

Saint Peter was humble. So we try to be humble too. For we are followers of Christ our Lord.

CHAPTER XXIII

SAINT PETER'S WORK IN ROME

Saint Peter had come to Rome to stay. He was bishop of Rome. At first he went to the Jews. Many of them lived there. He preached to them.

Rome was a very wicked city. The people were pagans. They prayed to false gods. They had great temples for their pagan gods. But they lived in sin. Their gods did not teach them to be good. For their gods were made out of wood and stone. They could not even talk.

The Romans were very proud. They ruled over nearly the whole world. Many of them were very rich. They had thousands of slaves.

The Romans were very learned too. They had great schools. They had many books. So they thought they were better than all the other people in the world.

Saint Peter came alone into this big city. He was a stranger. He had been a poor fisherman. He did not wear fine clothes like the Romans. He did not even have a home to go to. He was like an outcast.

But Saint Peter was brave. He was not afraid of those proud Romans. God had sent him to preach the Gospel. So he went out to preach to the Romans. At first they laughed at him. But Saint Peter did not care. He kept on telling them about our Lord. He told them about our holy Faith.

After awhile they began to listen to him. Then some of them came to see him. He taught them the great truths of our holy Faith. They believed. Then St. Peter baptized them.

In a short time there were many Christians in Rome. Then they would come together in the houses. They would pray together. Saint Peter would say Mass for them. He would give them Holy Communion.

When the people heard this they were sorry for what they had done. Then they asked Saint Peter and the other Apostles what to do.

Then Saint Peter said to them: "Do penance. Be baptized, every one of you. Have your sins taken away in Baptism. Then you shall receive the Holy Ghost."

Many of these people believed what Saint Peter had told them. They believed in our Lord. They became members of our holy Church. The Apostles baptized about three thousand of them that same day.

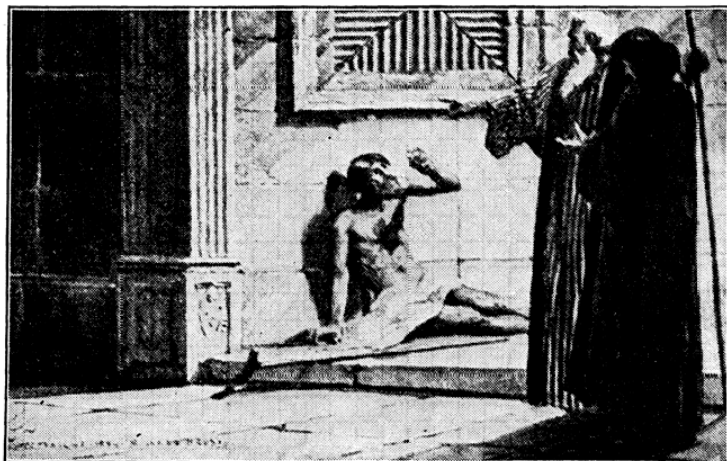
They then learned all the teachings of the Church. The Apostles said Mass for them in different houses. The people received Holy Communion every day.

The first Christians loved one another. They shared all that they had with one another. They prayed together. They were very happy. They always praised God for the great gift of Faith. God has given us the same Faith as He gave to these first Christians. We also praise God. We also are happy in our holy Faith.

CHAPTER III

SAINT PETER CURES THE LAME MAN

There was a poor lame man in Jerusalem. He had never been able to walk since he was born. They used to carry him to the temple every day. There he would lie all day beside the door and beg.

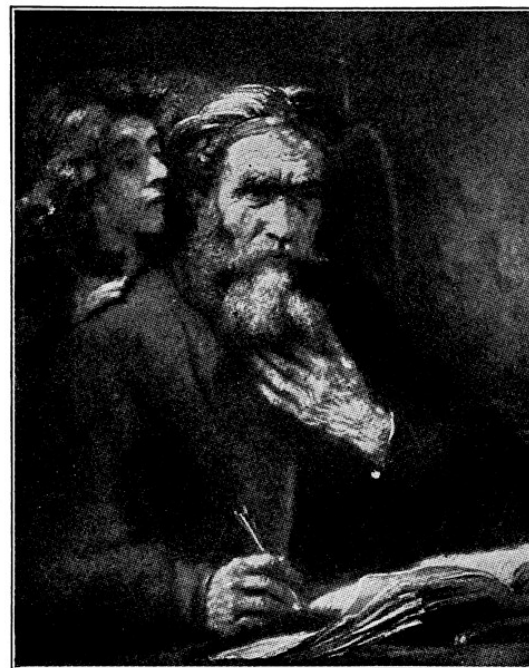


THE LAME MAN HEALED

Saint Peter and Saint John went to the temple one afternoon. The poor beggar saw them going in. He held out his hand and asked them to give him something. The two Apostles turned to him. They told him to look at them. Then he thought they were going to give him some money.

Saint Peter then said to the poor beggar: "I have no silver or gold. But I will give you something that I have." Saint Peter had something better than silver or gold to give. He had power from our Lord to cure the poor lame man. Then he said to him: "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth get up and walk."

God. He would kneel for hours and think about the great things God does for us.



SAINT MATTHEW

It is fine to think about God and about heaven. It helps us to be good. In heaven we will meet all the Apostles. We will talk with the Blessed Virgin and Saint Joseph. We will be with all the good people that ever lived. We will see God face to face. We will be happy forever.

He was also put to death. Saint Clement then became Pope. He had been ordained bishop by Saint Peter himself.

So one Pope followed another. When one died, another was put in his place. Benedict XV is Pope now. From Saint Peter to Benedict XV there have been two hundred and sixty-five Popes.

It is through the Popes that the power of all bishops and priests comes down from Christ. The Pope names all the bishops in the world. The bishops ordain the priests. So every priest has his power from Christ.

How happy we are to belong to the holy Catholic Church. It comes down from Christ and the Apostles. It has been teaching the same holy Truth for nineteen hundred years. God was good to us when He made us children of the holy Catholic Church.

CHAPTER XXII

SAINT MATTHEW

Saint Matthew had been a publican. The publicans were tax-gatherers. The people did not like them. But our Lord called Saint Matthew to be a great Apostle.

Saint Matthew preached the Gospel in Judea. Then he went to Persia. After that he went into the farthest parts of Asia. He brought many thousands into our holy Faith.

Saint Matthew wrote one of the four Gospels. This Gospel is a part of the Bible. Saint Luke wrote one of the Gospels. Saint Mark wrote one. Then Saint John, the Apostle, wrote the last Gospel.

God put the words of the Gospels into their minds. It is the same as if God sent an angel to whisper the words in their ear. So every word of the Gospels is from God.

Saint Matthew was a very holy man. He never ate meat. He lived on herbs, roots and berries. He loved to think about

The poor man had never been able to stand on his feet in his life. But when he heard Saint Peter's words, he stood up. Then he went into the temple jumping and running. He gave praise to God for His goodness to him. He thanked Saint Peter for curing him.



CHRIST MAKES SAINT PETER HEAD OF THE CHURCH

The people all knew the lame beggar. They saw him walking. They could hardly believe their eyes. They wondered very much to see him cured. Then he told them that the Apostles had cured him. When they heard this the people all crowded around Saint Peter and Saint John.

Then Saint Peter spoke to the crowd. He said: "You men of Israel, do not be surprised. You must not think that we cured this man by our own power.

"We cured this man by the power of Jesus. This is the same Jesus whom you denied before Pilate. You freed a murderer rather than Him. You killed the Holy One Who gave you life. You nailed Him to a cross. But He rose from the dead. We all saw Him alive after He came from the tomb."

"But brothers, I know you did not know what you were doing. You were ignorant. So were your rulers. It had been foretold hundreds of years before that Christ would suffer all these things.

"Be sorry, then, for your sins. Turn back to God. Then He will take away your sins. Our Lord came to bless you first. Turn away from your sins. Be true to Him now."

A very large number believed. There were about five thousand of them. The leaders of the Jews were very angry. They were afraid that all the people would believe what the Apostles preached to them. They had Saint Peter and Saint John arrested. They put them in jail.

The next day Saint Peter and Saint John had their trial. The Jewish high priests and the leaders said to Saint Peter: "By what power did you do this? In whose name did you do it?"

Saint Peter answered: "You are the rulers of the people. You want to find out about the good deed we did to a poor helpless man. You want to know how we cured him. I will tell you. It was in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth. You crucified Him. He arose from the dead. It is by His power that we did this. He is the Saviour of the whole world. In His name all the people of the world must be saved. There is no other that can save us."

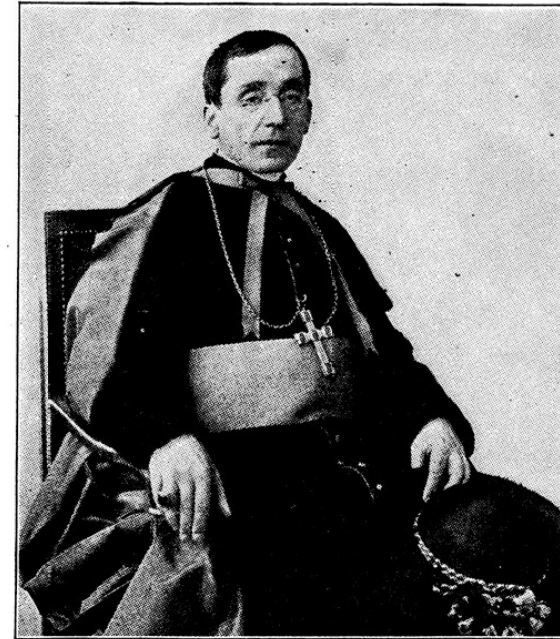
The leaders were surprised to hear these wonderful things. The man who had been cured was standing right there. They did not know what to do.

They told Saint Peter and Saint John not to preach any

CHAPTER XXI

SAINT PETER AT ROME

After some years Saint Peter left Antioch. He went to Rome. Rome was the greatest city of the world at that time. Saint Peter then became bishop of Rome.



HIS HOLINESS, BENEDECT XV

Since that time the bishop of Rome has always been Pope. The bishop of Rome will be Pope until the end of the world. The next Pope after Saint Peter was Saint Linus. He was Pope only a few years. Then he was put to death. The next Pope was Saint Cletus. He ruled only twelve years.

the people cried out against him. Then the soldiers bound him and led him to the ruler.

The next day they held a council. Saint Paul spoke to them. But they only quarreled amongst themselves. Then they made plans to kill Saint Paul.



SAINT PAUL IN ROME

At last they took Saint Paul before the governor. For two years they kept on trying to find Saint Paul guilty. After this they had him up for trial again. He was a Roman citizen. So they made up their minds to send him to Rome. There he would be put on trial.

They set sail for Rome. A terrible storm arose. It lasted for many days. They thought sure the ship would sink. At last the ship struck land. The ship was broken to pieces. But they were all saved. They stayed in this place three months. Then they took another ship for Rome.

Saint Paul suffered many things for our holy Faith. He loved that same holy Faith that we love. He lived and labored to teach the Faith to others.

more about Jesus. The Apostles answered: "We would rather obey God than obey you. We must tell what we have seen and heard."



SAINT ANDREW

They were afraid to keep the two Apostles in jail, so they sent them away.

Saint Peter and Saint John went back and told the other Apostles all that had happened. They all praised God for letting them suffer for our holy Faith. Then they all prayed together.

CHAPTER IV

THE SEVEN DEACONS

The Apostles took care of the poor people. The people brought what they had. Then the Apostles saw that everybody had plenty to live on. They looked after the widows and orphans every day.

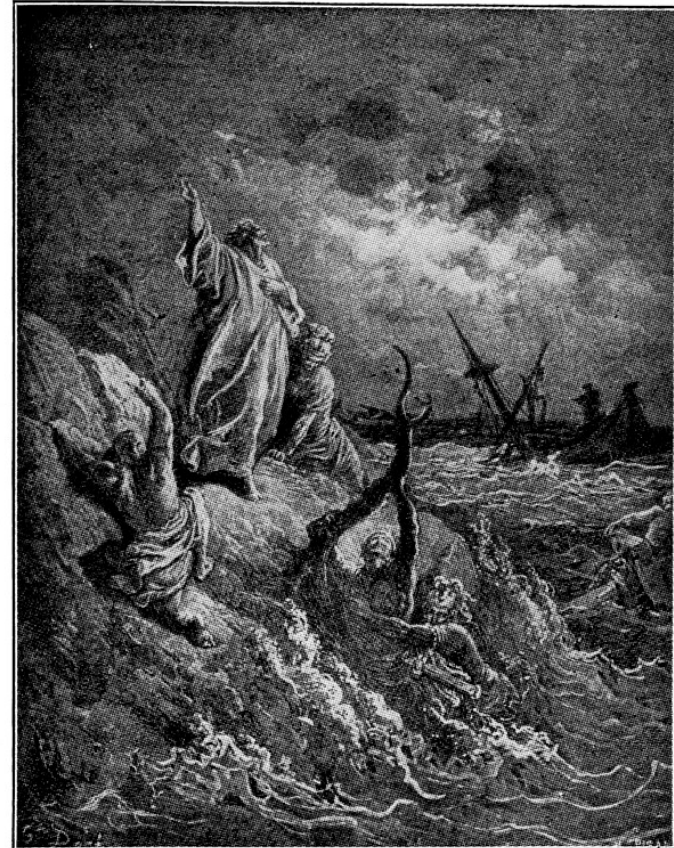


THE LIAR'S DOOM

The people sold their houses and their lands. Then they brought the money to the Apostles. The Apostles helped the poor people with this money.

One day a man brought some money to Saint Peter. His name was Ananias. His wife's name was Saphira. They had sold a piece of land. They kept some of the money. But they lied to Saint Peter about it. They told Saint Peter that they had brought all the money to him.

I also hunted people to death. I went after the Christians to kill them. But on the way I saw a bright light from heaven. Then a voice said to me: 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute



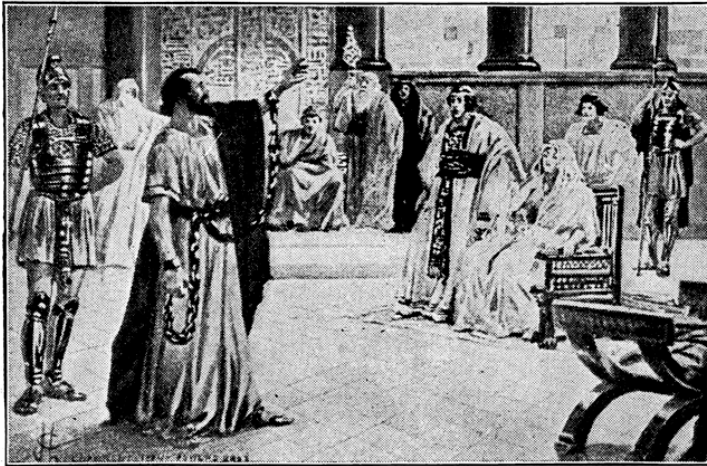
SAINT PAUL SHIPWRECKED

Me.' And I asked: 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said to me: 'I am Jesus of Nazareth.' Those that were with me also saw the light from heaven."

Saint Paul told them all that had happened to him. But

Saint Paul went to Jerusalem. There the Christians were all glad to see him. The priests and people came together. Then Saint Paul told them the wonderful things God had done. He told them how many had turned to the Faith. They were all filled with joy when they heard these things.

After a few days, Saint Paul went to the temple. The Jews saw him. They became wild with anger. They cried out:



SAINT PAUL BEFORE AGRIPPA

“This is the man that has been preaching against the law.” The whole city was in an uproar. Crowds began to gather. They dragged Saint Paul out of the temple. They were going to kill him.

Just then the soldiers ran to them. They took Saint Paul away from the Jews. They bound him with chains. Then they asked the people what he had done wrong. Some said one thing, some another. At this the soldiers picked up Saint Paul and carried him into the castle. Saint Paul asked them to let him speak to the people. They loosened his hands to let him speak.

Turning to the people, he said: “I too am a Jew. I was raised in this city. Gamaliel was my teacher. I was like you.

Saint Peter said to Ananias: “You let the devil tempt you. You could have kept all the money. It was yours. But you lied. You lied to God.” At this Ananias fell down dead. The young men carried him out.

Then Saphira came. She did not know what had happened. Saint Peter asked her if that was all the money. She said it was. Saint Peter said to her: “Why do you tempt God? They have just carried out your husband dead.” Then Saphira fell dead at Saint Peter’s feet. They carried her out. They buried them both together.

But the Apostles were sent to preach the Gospel. They had no time to look after all these things. So they chose seven good men. These they ordained deacons. Their work was to take care of the poor. But they would also teach the people when they had time.

Stephen was one of these deacons. He was very holy. He was filled with the grace of God. He went out to preach one day. Some men tried to deny what he said. But Stephen spoke with the spirit of God. So they could not answer him.

Then they were very angry against Stephen. They got false witnesses to tell things against him. They went amongst the people. They stirred them up. Then they had Stephen arrested. At the trial they accused Stephen of many things. They said he told them that Jesus would destroy the city. Jesus would change the law of Moses. They asked Stephen if this was true. Then Stephen explained to them how God had taken care of the Jews. They were His chosen people. For a thousand years He had guided them. He had told them how our Lord would come. Then he showed them how they had turned away from God. They had killed the prophets. They had crucified Jesus Who is Christ our Lord.

When they heard this they gnashed their teeth at Stephen. Then Stephen looked up to heaven and cried out: “Behold, I see the glory of God. Jesus is standing at the right hand of the Father. The heavens are opened.”

At this they all began to cry out against Stephen. They

put their fingers in their ears. They did not want to hear what he said.



SAINT STEPHEN STONED TO DEATH

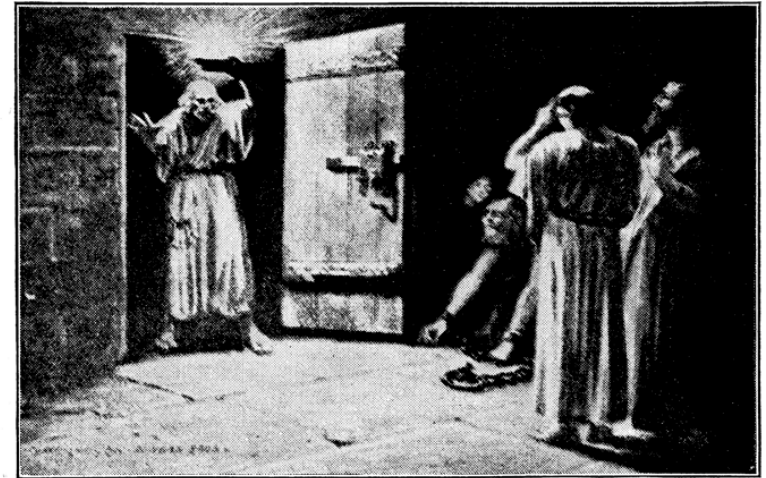
Then they dragged him out of the city. There they stoned him to death. Before he died Stephen fell on his knees and cried out: "Lord, do not blame them for this sin." Saint Stephen was the first Christian martyr. He died for our holy Faith.

This teaches us that we must stand firm in our holy Faith. We have that same holy Faith that Saint Stephen had.

CHAPTER XX

SAINT PAUL IS TAKEN PRISONER

Saint Paul was in a town called Philippi. There was a priest with him. His name was Silas. He preached to the people. But they were very angry. They put Saint Paul and Silas in prison. They fastened their feet in stocks. At mid-



THE PHILIPPIAN JAILER

night Saint Paul and Saint Silas were praying. All at once there was a great earthquake. It shook the prison. All the doors flew open. Saint Paul and Saint Silas found themselves free. But they did not run away.

The jailer came running in. He thought the prisoners were gone. But Saint Paul spoke to him. Then the jailer fell at their feet. He asked them what he must do to be saved. Then they said to him: "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Then you and your family will be saved. The jailer became a Christian. He believed in our holy Faith.

their sins taken away. So Saint Philip would hear their confessions.



SAINT PHILIP

All the Apostles heard the people's confessions. They would take away the people's sins in the Sacrament of Penance. Our Lord gave them this power. They handed it down to all the other bishops and priests of the world.

Saint Philip gave the people Confirmation. All the Apostles gave Confirmation. They were all bishops. They gave all the other Sacraments too. These are the same Sacraments that we receive now. God has been very good to us. We have the same blessings as if we lived in the time of the Apostles.

CHAPTER V

ST. PAUL'S CONVERSION

The people began to make great trouble for the Christians in Jerusalem. They hunted them everywhere. They made the Christians suffer many things. Soon the Christians were all scattered.



OUR LORD SPEAKS TO SAINT PAUL

There was a man named Saul who was one of the worst. He went from house to house hunting the Christians. He dragged many men and women to prison.

This man Saul went out to hunt the Christians in other parts of the country. He intended to find them and bring them to prison.

Saul started out toward the city of Damascus. On the way

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CHAPTER XIX

SAINT PHILIP

Saint Philip preached the Gospel in a country called Phrygia. He loved God very much. So he worked hard to draw the people to God. Like the other Apostles, he went about all the time preaching.



SAINT PHILIP AND THE MAN IN THE CHARIOT

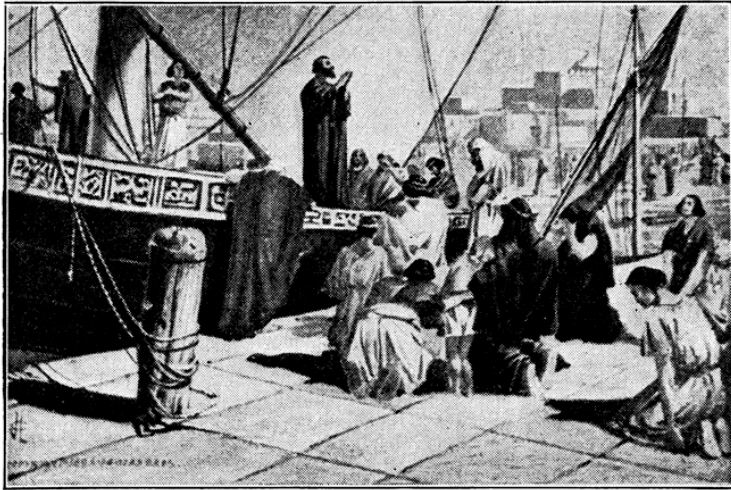
He called the people together whenever he could find them. He told them about God. He told them that our Lord was born in Bethlehem. He told them about the Blessed Virgin Mary. He told them how our Lord died on the cross. He told them that they must all believe in our Lord.

One day Saint Philip met a man in a chariot. He was a great man. He had servants with him. Saint Philip told him all about our Lord. The man believed. Then he asked Saint Philip to baptize him.

Many of the people believed. Then Saint Philip baptized them. Then he gave them their first Communion. Of course, the people went to confession too. They had to have

knew that our holy Faith was from God. They tried to live good holy lives. For they knew that is what God wanted them to do.

The pagans saw how good the first Christians were. They saw how happy they were. So they often became Christians. They wanted to be good and happy like the Christians.



THE PEOPLE CRYING WHEN SAINT PAUL IS LEAVING

We have the same Mass as the first Christians had. Our Lord died on the cross. He gave Himself for our sins. It was the Sacrifice of the cross. He gives Himself in the Mass. He gives us Himself to make us holy. It is the same Sacrifice. To be at Mass is like being at the cross when our Lord died on it.

The Apostles said Mass then. The priest says Mass now. We go to Mass every day if we can. For the Mass is as dear to us as it was to the first Christians. We love to go to Holy Communion often like they did. They went to Holy Communion every day.

We believe the same things as the first Christians believed. The priest teaches the same things as the Apostles taught. We love our holy Faith like the first Christians loved it.

a bright light was thrown around him. It was a light from heaven. Saul was afraid. He fell from his horse and lay trembling on the ground. Then he heard a voice from heaven.



SAINT PAUL

It said: "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?" Then Saul said: "Who art thou, Lord?" The voice answered: "I am Jesus, and you are persecuting Me."

Poor Saul saw his mistake. His heart was good. But he did not know that Jesus was God until now. There he

lay trembling on the ground. He said: "Lord, what do You want me to do? I am ready to do what You wish."

Our Lord told Saul to go to the city. There he would find out what he was to do. Saul got up from the ground. But now he found he was blind. He opened his eyes and could not see anything.

There was a good man in the city. His name was Ananias. Our Lord appeared to this man and told him to go out and find Saul. Our Lord told him he would find Saul praying in a house. He told him to lay his hands on Saul.

Ananias found Saul in the house. He laid his hands upon him. At once Saul got his sight back. Then he was baptized. After this he was called Paul.

God chose Paul to be a great Apostle. He sent him out to teach the Gospel to the other nations. Paul started out at once to preach about our Lord.

The Jews were surprised when they heard him preaching. They knew he had been trying to kill the Christians. Now he was preaching for them. The Jews saw that he had become a Christian. So they made plans to kill him.

Saint Paul found out that the Jews were watching him. He knew that they wanted to kill him. There was a big wall around the city. The Jews watched all the gates day and night.

But some of the good people helped Saint Paul to get away. In the night they got a big basket. In this they let Saint Paul down over the wall with a rope. So he got away from the Jews.

Saint Paul went to Jerusalem after this. When he reached the city he tried to go in with the Christians. But they were afraid of him. They did not know the wonderful things that had happened to him. When they found out they were very glad. Saint Paul stayed with them some time. But he was teaching and preaching all the time.

It is wonderful what the grace of God did for Saint Paul. He did his part well. He worked day and night for God. He spent his whole life for our holy Church.

name. They would laugh at them and say: "Christian, Christian."

Then the believers did not like to be called Christians. But Saint Peter told them that it was a good name. They were glad then. After that they were proud to be called Christians.

Later on the pagans used to try to make the Christians pray to their false gods. But every one would say: "I am a Christian." Sometimes the pagans would put them to death for saying this. But they were always proud of the name.

CHAPTER XVIII

THE LIVES OF THE FAITHFUL

The Apostles taught the people the things that our Lord had told them. So the people were very good. They used to come together every day to pray. They tried to remember all that the Apostles told them to do.

Often the Apostles had to leave them to go to other places. The people hated to see them go. Once when Saint Paul was leaving in a ship, they crowded around. They cried. For they were afraid they would not see him again.

These first Christians loved God very much. They also loved one another. They put all their money together. The rich people gave all that they had. They wanted the poor people to have plenty. They took care of those that were sick. They sent money to other Christians that were in need. So they always helped one another.

The Apostles used to say Mass in the houses. The people would come to Mass. Then the Apostles and the other priests would give them Holy Communion.

In those days they called Mass "breaking bread." This is because our Lord broke bread when He gave us the Holy Eucharist.

The people believed all that the Apostles told them. They

Saint Thomas went forth to preach the Gospel. He went about teaching the people to believe in our Lord.

Saint Thomas preached in Parthia. He also preached in many other parts of Asia. He led thousands to our holy Faith. He went away into India. There he taught many to know and love God.

Saint Thomas was put to death for our holy Faith. He died happy. For he died loving God.

The Apostles were poor in this world. They were often driven from place to place. They had no homes. They were wanderers for God. But they put their trust in God. And God took care of them. He took them to Himself. They are now in heaven with God. There they will be happy with Him forever. That is our hope, too. We do not love the things of this world. We look forward to the time when we will be happy with God forever.

CHAPTER XVII

SAINT PETER AT ANTIOCH

Saint Peter went to Antioch. There he preached the Gospel. Antioch is a city in Asia. Saint Peter made this city the head city of the whole Church. He was bishop of Antioch. He was also head of the whole Church.

Antioch was a great city. But there were many wicked people there. They were very proud. They were pagans. They gave themselves up to all kinds of sin.

Saint Barnabas also came to preach at Antioch. At first the pagans thought they were only Jews. But when they heard Saint Peter and Saint Baranabas preaching they knew it was a new religion. They knew Saint Peter and Saint Barnabas were followers of Christ. So they called them Christians. Since that time all that believe in our Lord are called Christians.

At first the pagans used to mock the faithful with this

CHAPTER VI

SAINT PETER WORKS MIRACLES

The Apostles went about everywhere. They taught the people in many cities. Of course, Saint Peter was the head of the Apostles.

One day Saint Peter came to a town called Lydda. Here he was going around visiting the people. He found a man named Eneas. Eneas had been sick in bed for eight years. He was paralyzed. He could not move.

Saint Peter said to him: "Eneas, the Lord Jesus Christ is going to make you well. Arise, and make your bed." At once Eneas got out of bed. He was cured.

All the people of the town saw that Eneas had been cured. So they believed in our Lord. They became Christians. They became members of our holy Church.

Not far from Lydda there was a town called Joppe. There was a very good woman living in this town. Her name was Dorcas. She had done much good for the poor people of the town. She had helped them in their need.

Dorcas was very sick. Then she died. She was laid out in her house. The disciples sent word to Saint Peter that Dorcas had died. They asked him to come to Joppe at once.

Saint Peter came. They took him into the room where the dead woman was laid out. The people were there crying. They loved Dorcas. Saint Peter told them all to leave the room.

Then Saint Peter knelt by the corpse and prayed. In a little while he turned to the dead woman and said: "Dorcas, arise." At once the dead woman opened her eyes and sat up. Saint Peter took her by the hand. She stood up. Then Saint Peter called in the people. He gave Dorcas back to them alive.



SAINT THADDEUS

Our Lord loved the Apostles. He gave them great powers. They were the first bishops and priests of our holy Church. Our Lord wanted all the people to know that He had founded the Catholic Church.

CHAPTER XVI

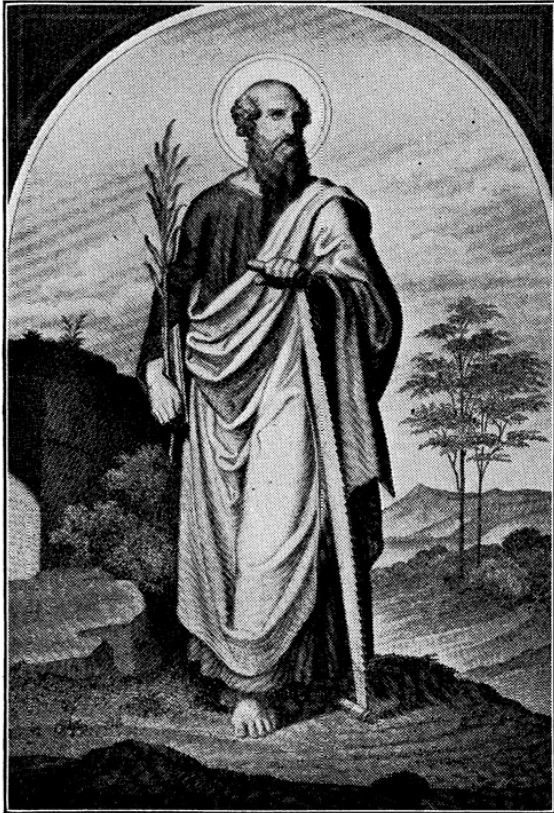
SAINT THOMAS



SAINT THOMAS

Saint Thomas had been a fisherman. Most of the Apostles had been fishermen. Our Lord called him with the other eleven. He was to be one of those twelve men who were to preach the Gospel.

would only have a tree to shelter them. It must have been wonderful. There they would say Mass under the trees.



SAINT SIMON

They would gather the children around them. They would teach them all about God.

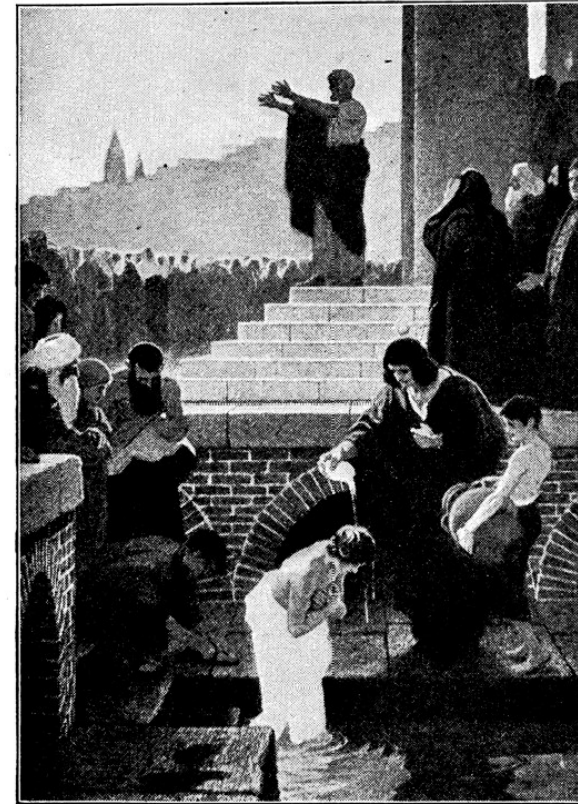
At last the two Apostles met in Persia. Here they were both put to death for our holy Faith. They were martyrs. All the Apostles were martyrs. They all died for the Faith which we love so much.

We may never have to die for our holy Faith. But we live for it. We love it. For our holy Faith comes from God.

CHAPTER VII

THE PREACHING OF THE APOSTLES

The Apostles went into every country. They preached the Gospel wherever they went. They remembered what our Lord had told them.



PREACHING AND BAPTIZING

Our Lord had told them to preach the Gospel to every nation. They were doing this work well. How they must have

thought of our Lord! They would think of all that He told them. They would think of the wonderful things He had done.

It is said that Saint Peter used to wake up in the night. He could not go back to sleep again. But he would keep on saying over and over again the things he had heard from our Lord. He wanted to keep these things in his mind all the time.

The Apostles taught the same as our Lord had taught. The Holy Ghost was with them. They ordained other bishops and priests. These bishops and priests taught the same as the Apostles taught.

So they handed down our Lord's teachings. These teachings have come down to us. They are just the same as if our Lord himself taught them to us.

The Apostles were the first priests and bishops. They taught in our Lord's name. They were the first leaders of our holy Church. The Church teaches us in our Lord's name. It is the same as if our Lord Himself taught us. How grand it is for us to have our Lord's holy teachings. To be members of our holy Church is the same as to walk with Christ. We can hear Him through the bishops and priests of the Church.

The Apostles had been with our Lord at the Last Supper. There He changed bread and wine into His Own body and blood. It was then He gave us the holy Mass. He said Mass Himself that night. Then He told the Apostles to do the same. He told them to say Mass. He gave them power to change bread and wine into His body and blood.

So everywhere the Apostles went they said Mass for the people. They gave them Holy Communion every day. They had no churches yet. So they had Mass in houses. Sometimes they had Mass out under the trees.

The people loved to go to Mass then just as we do now. And that was nearly two thousand years ago. We have fine churches all over the world now. There is Mass in every church every morning.

CHAPTER XV

SAINT SIMON AND SAINT JUDE



SAINT SIMON AND SAINT JUDE

Saint Simon preached the Gospel in Egypt. Saint Jude preached the Gospel in Mesopotamia. These two Apostles went about amongst the people. They taught them the truths of our holy Faith.

There they were, away off in strange lands. They were anxious to teach the whole world. They wanted all the people in the world to love God. They had no churches. So they had to gather the people together wherever they could. Sometimes they would come together in houses. At times they

Next morning the soldiers ran about the city trying to find Saint Peter. But he was gone. Herod was very angry when he heard this. Then he put the guards to death. He thought they did not watch Saint Peter well enough.

God took care of Saint Peter. He wanted him to live. He wanted him to rule the Church for many years.



SAINT PETER DELIVERED BY THE ANGEL

Herod Agrippa was very wicked. So he was very unhappy. He even wanted the people to honor him as a god. He put on a cloak of gold. He went out to the people. In that very moment an angel of the Lord struck him. He fell dead on the spot and worms ate him up.

Saint Peter had to suffer many things. But he was very happy. He was doing the will of God. He was doing good to others. He was teaching them to love God.

We are always happy when we do what God wants us to do. The love of God is better than all the gold in the world for us. We will love God forever.

CHAPTER VIII

SAINT PAUL'S JOURNEYS

Saint Paul was a wonderful Apostle. He traveled over many countries. He visited hundreds of towns and cities. Everywhere he preached the Gospel to the people.

Sometimes bad people drove him out of the city. Other times they beat him with heavy rods. He was shipwrecked several times. Once he spent a night and a day in the water. He clung to some pieces of wood. Then he was washed ashore.

This brought him into a new country. But he started out at once to preach to the people.

Saint Paul ordained priests and bishops in nearly all the cities that he visited.

Saint Paul also worked many miracles. Once he was preaching in a town called Lystra. There was a man there who was a cripple. He had never walked in his life. He had been born a cripple.

Saint Paul saw this poor man. He said to him: "Stand up on your feet." Then the man jumped up and walked about. He was cured.

One night Saint Paul was preaching in a town called Troas. It was in an upper room. They had many lamps. Saint Paul kept on teaching the people until nearly midnight. For he was going to leave the next day.

There was a young man named Eutychus in the crowd. He was sitting on the window-sill. This young man got very sleepy. Then he fell out of the window to the ground. They ran down and picked him up. But he was dead.

Saint Paul went down to the dead man. He stretched himself on the corpse. He put his arms around it. Then he said to the people: "Don't worry now. For his soul is in him again." All at once the young man came back to life. The people were very glad indeed.

Saint Paul then stayed and talked to the people until morning. He wanted them to know all about our holy Faith. He worked day and night to bring the people to God. We are proud to profess that same holy Faith that Saint Paul preached so well.



THE BONFIRE OF BOOKS

Saint Paul then went to another town. He preached to the people there. They believed in what he told them. So they were ready to join our holy Church. But they had many bad books in that town. Now they knew that they should not read such books. So they brought all the bad books. They made a big pile. Then they set them on fire. So they burned all the bad books.

It is fine to read good books. We learn many good things from good books. We can read about our Lord in good books. We can read about our holy Faith too. We can learn to be good and useful when we read many good books.

Saint Peter then went to a house where some Christians lived. There was a crowd there praying all night. They heard a knock at the door. They were filled with joy when



SAINT PAUL VISITING SAINT PETER IN PRISON

they opened the door. For there stood Saint Peter. They indeed thanked God for hearing their prayers. Saint Peter told them how the angel had set him free. Then he left the city.

CHAPTER XIV

SAINT PETER IN PRISON

King Herod Agrippa had made up his mind to kill all the Christians in Jerusalem. He had put Saint James to death. Now he sent his soldiers after Saint Peter.

Herod put Saint Peter in prison. It was the Sabbath. He could not put him to death on that day. There was a Jewish celebration too. So he had to wait a few days.

Herod put soldiers at the prison to guard Saint Peter. He was afraid he would get away. There were four soldiers watching Saint Peter all the time. Two of these soldiers were chained to Saint Peter all the time. The other two stood on guard at the door of the prison.

Saint Paul came to see Saint Peter. But he could not get inside. So he talked to him through the bars. They must have been glad to talk with each other. They must have talked much about our Lord and our holy Church.

Of course, the people could not get Saint Peter out. But they prayed for him day and night. Then the last night came. Saint Peter was to be put to death the next morning.

Saint Peter lay down to sleep between his two guards that night as usual. He was still chained to them. The prison was very dark. About three o'clock in the morning Saint Peter awoke. The prison was filled with light. An angel stood before Saint Peter. The angel told him to get up quickly.

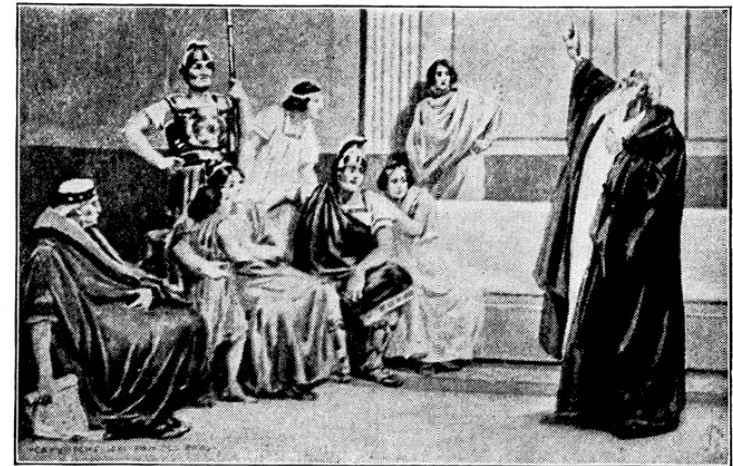
Then the angel told him to put on his cloak and follow him. Saint Peter followed the angel. All the time he thought it was a dream.

Saint Peter found himself standing alone in one of the streets of Jerusalem. The angel had left him. Then he knew all that had happened was real.

CHAPTER IX

SAINT PETER GUIDED BY GOD

There was a man at Cesarea. His name was Cornelius. He was an officer in the Roman army. He was a very good man.



SAINT PETER PREACHING TO CORNELIUS

One day Cornelius was praying. An angel came to him and said: "Cornelius, God has heard your prayers. God is pleased with your good works. Now you must send to Joppe for Peter."

The next day Saint Peter was praying in Joppe. Here he saw a vision from God. He did not know what it meant. Then some men came looking for him. Cornelius had sent them.

Then Saint Peter heard a voice: "Go with these men. I have sent them to you." Saint Peter went with them to Cesarea. He went to Cornelius' home.

Cornelius fell down at Saint Peter's feet. But Saint Peter lifted him up and said: "Arise, for I am only a man." Then Saint Peter preached to Cornelius and all the people that had gathered there. He told them all about Jesus. They all believed in our Lord when they heard Saint Peter. Then he baptized them.

God sent Saint Peter to Cornelius. He wanted to tell him that he should receive even pagans into the Church. They could become Christians too. This is what the vision meant.

At first they thought the Church was to be only for the Jews. But our Lord had said to the Apostles: "Go and teach all nations."

The Catholic Church teaches all nations of the world. She teaches them to know God, to love Him, and to serve Him. Three hundred million people are members of the Catholic Church.

At last Saint Andrew came to a town called Achaia. Here the people treated him very badly. They whipped him until he was nearly dead. Then they tied him to a cross.

Saint Andrew was happy when he saw the cross. He was glad to think he was going to die on a cross. For he wanted to die like our Lord died.

As soon as he saw the cross, he cried out: "O dear cross, you were made holy by the body of my Lord. I am full of joy to come to you. Receive me in your arms. O good cross, I love you. I have longed for you. Now I have found you. Take me in your arms. Give me to my Master. He redeemed me on you. Now let me go to him through you."

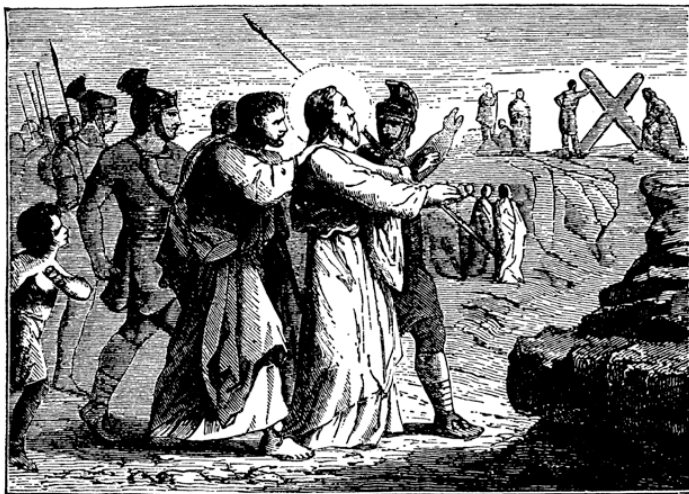
Saint Andrew hung on the cross two days. The people came to look at him. He preached to them all the time from the cross. There he was alive on the cross. He was slowly dying. But as long as he could talk he preached the Gospel to the people. At last he died. No doubt his last words were to beg the people to love God.

How grand it is to love God. Those who love God are always ready to die. They know they are going to God Who loves them. They know they will be happy with Him forever.

CHAPTER XIII

THE APOSTLE SAINT ANDREW

Saint Andrew was Saint Peter's brother. He was the first Apostle that our Lord chose. He preached the Gospel in Scythia. Then he went to Greece. There he also preached the Gospel for several years.



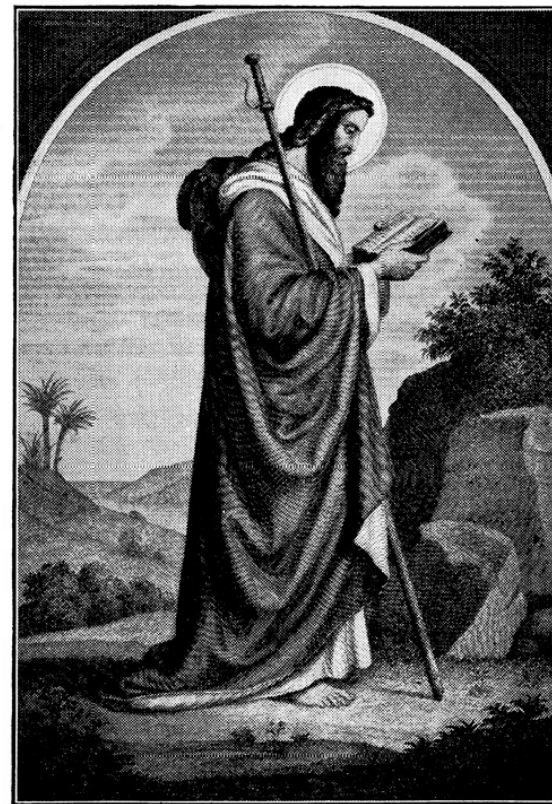
SAINT ANDREW SEES THE CROSS

Saint Andrew labored in many places. Some learned men in Argos tried to deny what he taught. But Saint Andrew proved to them that it was true.

Like all the Apostles, Saint Andrew loved the people. He wanted to draw them all to God. He traveled long distances to teach different nations. Of course, he walked most of the time. Indeed he won thousands of people to Christ.

CHAPTER X

THE COUNCIL AT JERUSALEM



SAINT JAMES THE GREATER

The Church was growing fast. Thousands of people were being brought to the Faith. The Apostles preached everywhere. People of many nations believed in our Lord.

Saint Peter was chief of the Apostles. Our Lord had told him to watch over the whole Church.

Now there were many things that had to be settled. The Jews wanted to follow some of the old laws.

Saint Peter made up his mind to call a general Council at Jerusalem. A general Council is a meeting of all the bishops of the world. The Pope rules over a general Council.

All the Apostles came to Jerusalem. They had ordained other bishops. These came too. They talked about their great work. They made plans for spreading the Faith over the whole world.

Then Saint Peter stood up. He told them how they were to deal with the Jews. Many of the Jews had become Christians.

Saint Peter laid down rules for the whole Church. These rules were sent out to all the Christians.

The Apostles and all others obeyed Saint Peter. He was the head of the Church. He was the Pope.

This was the first general Council of the Church. It was held about eighteen years after our Lord's death.

There have been twenty general Councils held in the Church. The last was held in Rome. It began on December 8, 1869.

The Holy Ghost guides the Catholic Church. Our holy Church will teach the truth until the end of the world. We are just as sure of this holy truth as the people were when the Apostles preached to them. Our holy Church is spread over the whole world. It teaches all the nations of the world. It teaches them to love and serve God.

Saint Bartholomew went into Persia and Arabia. He went nearly all over Asia. At last he came into Armenia. The people of this country had false gods made out of wood and stone. These false gods were called idols. Saint Bartholomew told these people about the one true God. But they would not believe him. They were very angry with him. For he preached against their false gods. So they tied him to a tree. Then they killed him.

Saint Bartholomew was glad to die for our holy Faith. He spent his whole life working for the glory of God. He went away off into those wild countries. He told those savage people about God's love. He taught them. He said Mass for them. He baptized them. He gave them holy Communion. So indeed he was ready to die. He was ready to go to God. For he had loved God dearly all his life.

CHAPTER XII

SAINT BARTHOLOMEW

Saint Bartholomew preached the Gospel in India. He went into the countries where the barbarians lived. He told them all about God. He told them that our Lord had died to save them too.



DEATH OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW

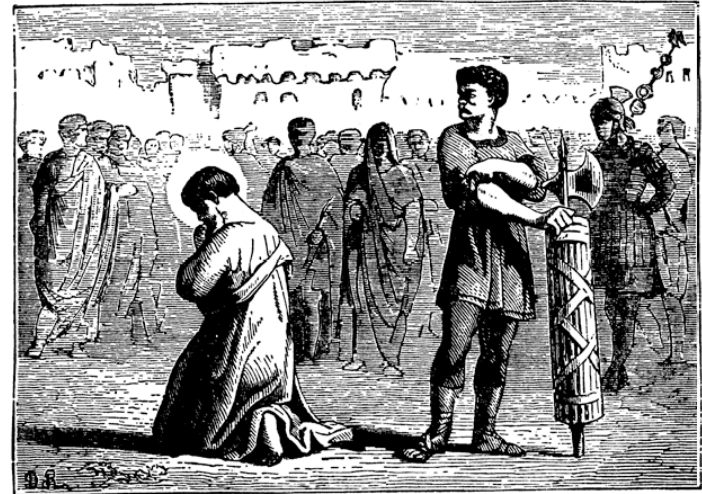
These poor people were almost like wild beasts. But this holy Apostle tamed them with the teachings of Christ. He taught them the beautiful lessons he had learned from our Lord. He taught them to love God. He taught them to love one another.

Saint Bartholomew traveled thousands of miles. Of course, he had to walk all the way. He went into many different countries. He preached the Gospel wherever he went.

CHAPTER XI

SAINT JAMES AND SAINT JOHN

The Apostles, Saint James and Saint John, were brothers. Their father's name was Zebedee. There was another Apostle Saint James. He is called Saint James the Less. He was a small man. Saint John's brother was larger. So he is called Saint James the Greater. Saint James the Greater went about preaching the Gospel. Some say he went to Spain.



SAINT JAMES PUT TO DEATH

Saint James was put to death in Jerusalem. He was killed with the sword. A cruel king, called Herod Agrippa, had this Apostle killed. Herod hated the Christians.

Saint James was the first of the Apostles to die. He was put to death about eleven years after our Lord's death.

Later Saint James' body was taken away by his disciples.

It was taken to Spain. It is in a place called Compostella. Many people go there every year to pray at his tomb.



SAINT JOHN

Saint John preached the Gospel in many places. He labored in different parts of Asia. It is said that he even went to India.

Saint John wrote one of the Gospels. He also wrote three Epistles and also the Apocalypse. Saint John is called the Apostle of love. Our Lord loved Saint John best of all the Apostles. Our Lord gave His Blessed Mother into the care

of Saint John. When He was dying on the cross, He told Saint John to be like a son to the Blessed Virgin. Saint John took care of the Blessed Virgin until her death. He loved her like a mother.

Saint John was always telling the people to love one another.



SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE

Saint John had to suffer like the other Apostles. They all suffered for the Faith. Saint John was thrown into prison. Then he was scourged.

Saint John lived to be very old. He was not put to death. He had been thrown into a tank of boiling oil. But God saved him. He labored for souls until he died. Toward the end he could not walk. But they carried him out to the people so that he could preach to them. Then he used to say over and over again: "Little children, love one another."

Love is beautiful. Saint John used to say that if we do not love one another we can not love God. Love makes us happy. It also makes others happy when we love them. Love is the great gift of God to us. God loves us. We love God.