

BIOGRAPHY OF ST. ANDREW

Some of you may be wondering how our parish received the name of St. Andrew the Apostle as a Patron. Bishop Carter assigned this name to our parish. This name was chosen as a tribute to one of our great Diocesan Churchman, Monsignor Andrew Parnell Mahoney, Vicar General of this Diocese, who was ordained in 1914.

The following is a little historical data on St. Andrew the Apostle. It is given at this time so that all may be conversant with the life of our Parish Patron, whose feast occurs on November 30th.

Day of Death: November 30th, (year unknown) Grave: at first in Patras; on March 3, 357, his relics were transferred to Constantinople; since 1208 the apostle's burial Church is Amalfi, his head rested in St. Peter's at Rome, but just recently Pope Paul in an overt gesture of Ecumenism with the Greek Orthodox Church permitted the head to be returned to the East. His life:- Andrew, Peter's brother, and John were the first disciples to follow the Lord. With tender delicacy the Gospel (John 1: 35-42) describes their first meeting with the Lord. Andrew did not belong to the inner circle of the apostles, Peter, James and John, and the evangelists relate nothing extraordinary about him (John 6:8); but tradition extols his great love of the cross and of the Savior; and the Church distinguishes him both in the Mass (his name occurs in the Canon and in the Libera since the time of Pope St. Gregory I, who had a special devotion to him) and in the Breviary.

The story of his martyrdom rests on the apocryphal Acts which lack historical foundation. The pagan judge exhorted him to sacrifice to the Gods. Andrew replied: "I sacrifice daily to Almighty God, the one and true God. Not the flesh of oxen and the blood of goats do I offer, but the unspotted Lamb upon the altar. All the faithful partake of His flesh, yet the Lamb remains unharmed and living." Angered by the reply, Aegeas commanded him to be thrown into prison. With little difficulty the people could have freed him, but Andrew personally calmed the mob and earnestly entreated them to desist, as he was hastening toward an ardently desired crown of martyrdom. When Andrew was led to the place of martyrdom, on beholding the cross from a distance he cried out: "O good Cross, so long desired and now set up for my longing soul! Confident and rejoicing I come to you; exultantly receive me a disciple of Him who hung on you." Forthwith, he was nailed to the cross. For two days he hung there alive, unceasingly proclaiming the doctrine of Christ, until he passed on to Him whose likeness in death he had so vehemently desired. The legendary account of our saint's martyrdom has this value: it presents to us the mysticism of the Cross of later times.

May Andrew, apostle and teacher of the Church, bestow on us the grace to see and to imitate the Crucified Savior in whatever crosses we encounter.