

Friday of the Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Gospel text (Mt 10:16-23): Jesus said to his Apostles: “Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and simple as doves... you will be led before governors and kings for my sake as a witness before them and the pagans... You will be hated by all because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved...”

The apostle

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Today, Jesus announces to His disciples what they are bound to suffer as a consequence of being selected as apostles. What He said is not very encouraging: judgments, lashings, hate from their relatives, prosecutions, death... The apostles' attitude: shrewdness and innocence. Their task: to go round the world focusing on bearing witness to Jesus, speaking through the inspired speech of the Holy Spirit... fleeing when needed. But, most important: persevering to the end.

"Apostle" is a Greek word meaning "one who is sent forth as a messenger"; sent forth by Jesus to proclaim His message. Twelve of them have been chosen by Jesus. To keep the Gospel integral, the apostolic preaching is being preserved from the beginning to the end of time, through an uninterrupted sequence. This living transmission is called "tradition": apostolic preaching continuing in apostolic succession. Tradition and Scripture are our two great sources of faith.

—O Lord, thanks to the apostles who have made possible for the faith to reach us, and to You, because you are sending us as part of this apostolic “chain“ the Gospel announces.