



SAINT OF THE MONTH: January 2008

St. Simon the Apostle

Cananean, Zealot, Martyr

Patron of Curriers, Tanners, & Sawyers

FEAST DAY : OCTOBER 28

CHARACTER TRAIT:

Respect, Citizenship

THEOLOGICAL VIRTUE:

Fortitude

The name of Simon occurs in all the passages of the Gospel and Acts, in which a list of the Apostles is given. To distinguish Simon from Peter (Simon Peter), he is referred to as *Kananaios*, or *Kananites* in the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, and *Zelotes* in the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts. These surnames have the same significance and are a translation of the Hebrew *quan* meaning the Zealous. This name does not mean he belonged to the party of Zealots, rather that he had a zeal for the Jewish law which he practiced before his call. St. Simon is venerated with St. Jude (Thaddaeus) and both are mentioned in the Eucharistic Prayer.

Simon was trained by St. Peter, the Apostle. He evangelized in Egypt and Mesopotamia, although there are traditions of him being in several other locations. Several places claim to have been the site of his martyrdom.

In addition to where Simon died, how he died seems to also be in question. Abyssinians claim he was crucified in Samaria, Lipsius says Simon was sawn in half in Suanir, Persia, and Moses of Clorene writes that he was martyred in Weriosphora in Iberia. Many locations claim to have relics including Toulouse, France, and St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Italy.

PRAYER TO SAINT SIMON THE APOSTLE

Oh, Glorious Saint Simon, you were a devoted follower of Jesus. 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.

FAMILY ACTIVITY: Read more about St. Simon on the new Advent website. This year learn the names of the Apostles. Pray the prayer for this saint each week.