

Saint of the Month

July 2008

St. Thomas encouraged his fellow apostles to go to die with Jesus in Judea, just as he was willing to do. This act of brave loyalty is a clue to the personality of Thomas (also called Didymus “the twin”).

Thomas was not present in the Upper Room when Jesus first appeared to the Apostles after the Resurrection. Thomas expressed a need for verification that Jesus had truly appeared. He expresses this in John 20:25 with these words: *“Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”*

Thomas’ faith is solidified, upon experiencing the proof he asked for. Jesus rebukes him, saying, *“Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed. (John 20:29)”*

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.

Patron Saint of: *architects, construction workers, people in doubt, theologians*

Profile: *Preached in Parthia, Persia, and India after a reluctant beginning. Formed many parishes and built many churches. Speared to death in c.72*

Noted for: *Apostle ready to die with Jesus. Best remembered for doubting the resurrection until being allowed to touch Christ’s wounds.*

Represented by: *builder’s square, spear*

Suggestion for this month:

Learn about the buildings in your parish.

Tour your church, looking especially for references to the apostles.

Pray a “Thank you” prayer for the gift of faith.

Character Trait: Responsibility
Virtue: Faith

St. Thomas

The Apostle

Feast Day: July 3

