



## *Essential Evangelization*

### **Saint Matthias**

This coming Saturday, May 14, we celebrate the feast of perhaps the least known apostle, Matthias. After the Ascension of Jesus, the apostles were faced with the tough decision of finding a replacement for Judas. Jesus had chosen the original 12, but how would they know who Jesus would want them to choose now?

The apostles gathered with 120 of the faithful in the upper room for reflection and prayer. Peter stood up and proposed that the new apostle had to be a disciple of Jesus from the very beginning, from the baptism by John in the desert. The new apostle must be a witness to Jesus' resurrection and must have followed Jesus when others left him. He had to be an "apostle" when Jesus spoke of His inevitable cross and the necessity of partaking of His body, a not too popular teaching.

So they prayed and cast lots to discover God's will. Matthias was chosen and it is the first and last we hear of him in Scripture. Tradition and historical writings however record that Matthias' enthusiastically embraced all of what it meant to be an apostle including evangelization, persecution, and daily service of the Lord. In the end, he was martyred for his faith. He said, "*We must combat our flesh, set no value upon it, and concede to it nothing that can flatter it, but rather increase the growth of our soul by faith and knowledge.*"

How do we qualify as an apostle of Jesus? It is in the day to day faithfulness. Sometimes not by super duper evangelization skills, but by living our lives faithfully, carrying our crosses, and loving others along the way. Matthias was chosen by God for what he would become and he remained faithful.

Jesus chooses us in the same way. Who does He want us to become?

*"Amen, I say to you that you who have followed me, in the new age, when the Son of Man is seated on his throne of glory, will yourselves sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel"*

*Matthew 19:28*

*This is one of a series of articles on  
Evangelization from the  
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