

The Twelve **APOSTLES**



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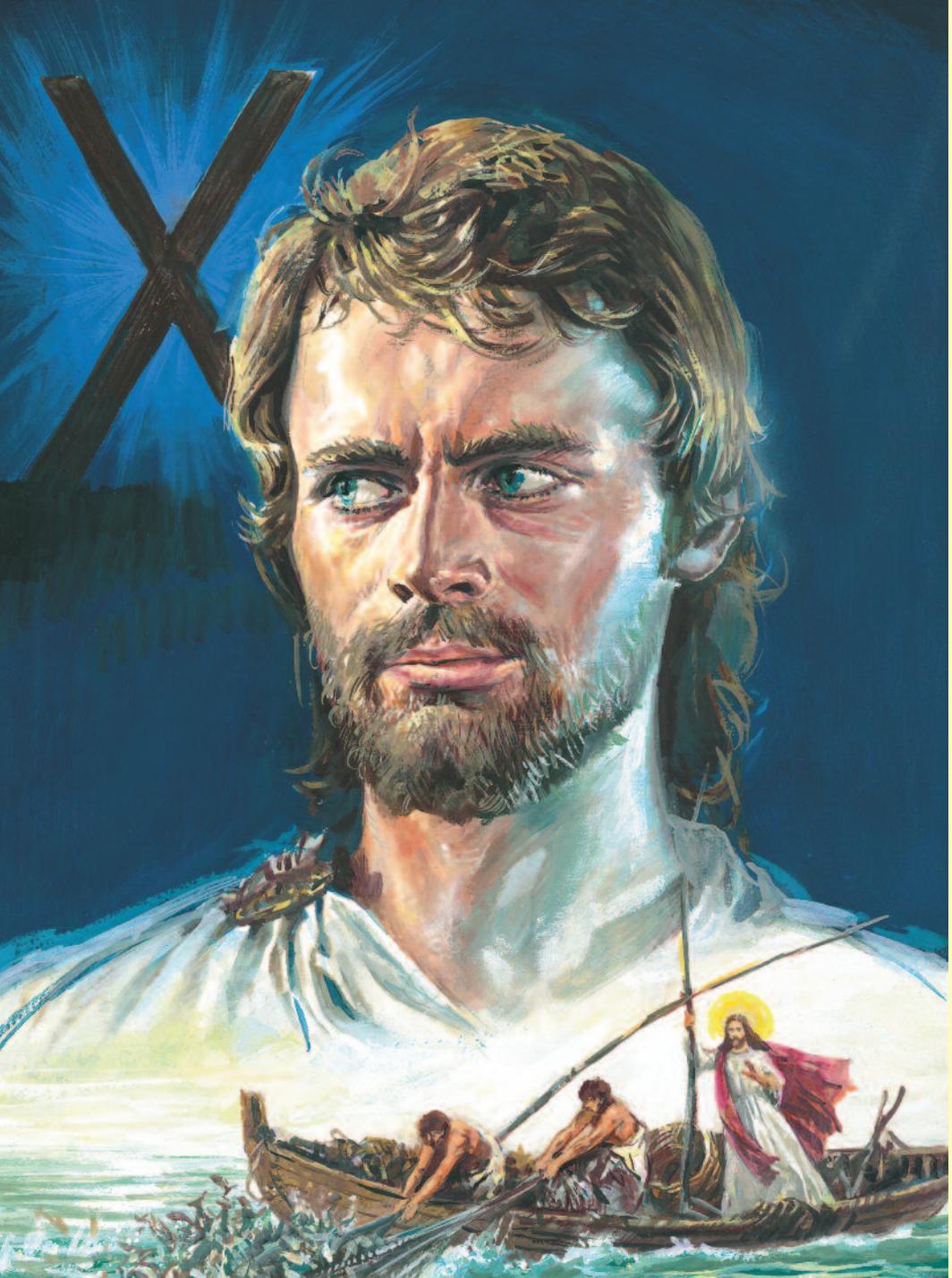
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Saint Andrew

November 30

ANDREW was St. Peter's brother and a fisherman like him. He began to follow Jesus even before Peter did.

Andrew was originally a follower of St. John the Baptist. One day John the Baptist saw Jesus walking by, and he proclaimed to his listeners, "Behold, the lamb of God."

When Andrew and another disciple heard what John the Baptist had said, they followed Jesus and became His disciples. Andrew was so moved by what he saw and heard that he told his brother Peter about Jesus, saying that Jesus must be the Messiah.

Andrew continued to lead people to Jesus by his preaching the Gospel throughout the countries of the east, especially in Greece, Poland, and Russia. He is greatly loved in these countries, and he is given as much reverence in countries of the east as Peter is given in countries of the west.

Like Jesus and Peter, Andrew died on the cross, but the cross upon which he died was shaped more like an X than a T.

Saint Thomas

July 3

NOT everyone finds it easy to have faith. Thomas is one of those who struggled to believe.

When Jesus heard that His friend Lazarus was ill and that they should go to Jerusalem, Thomas said that all the disciples should follow Jesus to die with Him. But Thomas' courage was more words than deeds, for he ran away with the others when Jesus died on the cross.

Later, when Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to the disciples, Thomas was not present. When the disciples told Thomas that Jesus had risen, he would not believe them. He said that he wanted to be able to touch the wounds in Jesus' hands and side before he would believe.

The next Sunday, Jesus appeared to them and told Thomas that he could touch His wounds. Thomas responded by saying, "My Lord and My God."

This reminds us that we will not always understand everything, but we have to believe. An example of this is the Holy Eucharist. It looks like bread and wine, but we believe that it is the Body and Blood of Jesus.

Thomas preached in Persia and India where he died for the faith.