



# DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD Eleventh Sunday of Ordinary Time



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## Overview

The readings for the Eleventh Sunday of Ordinary Time have four Children Liturgy of the Word themes: God chooses us, God loves us, Jesus cares for us, and Jesus sends us to help others.

In the First Reading, God tells the Israelites that they are God's special people. For children, this is an opportunity to emphasize that every person is precious to God. Just as parents treasure their children, God treasures each of us. Children can benefit when they hear that they belong to God and are loved by God.

In the Second Reading, St. Paul reminds us that God loved us even before we knew how to love God back. Sometimes, children think that they must earn God's love and may even understand love in terms of rewards or good behaviour. This reading helps CLoW leaders explain that God's love is a gift. God loves us because we are God's children, just like our parents loved us first, not because we have to earn it.

The Gospel provides the strongest connection for children. Jesus sees people who are tired, worried, lonely, or confused, and He feels compassion for them. Children can readily identify with this. They know what it feels like to be sad, left out, scared, or hurt. Jesus notices these feelings and cares deeply about them. He then sends His disciples to help others. This offers a practical lesson for children: if we follow Jesus, we also learn to notice when others need help. A child's mission includes showing kindness, including someone who is alone, helping at home, praying for others, and sharing God's love through everyday actions.

A helpful theme for leaders is:

"Jesus sees, Jesus cares, and Jesus sends us to care too."

When leading the reflection, invite children to imagine how Jesus looked at the crowds—with kindness, not judgment. Help them recognize that they can be part of Jesus' mission every day through simple acts of love and compassion.

Key Message for Children

God loves you, Jesus cares about you, and He invites you to help care for others.

### Key Messages for Children

- † God loves and chooses every one of us.
- † We belong to God.
- † Jesus loves us even when we make mistakes.
- † Jesus notices people who are hurting.
- † Jesus wants us to care for others.

### Key Messages for Leaders

- † Every child is chosen and loved by God.
- † God loves us first.
- † Jesus notices people who are struggling.
- † Compassion leads to action.
- † Discipleship is for everyone.

### Leader's Personal Reflection Questions

- In what ways do I help children know that they are loved by God?
- How has God touched my life recently?
- How am I living my own mission as a disciple of Christ?

### Leader Takeaway

God loves us, Jesus cares about us, and Jesus invites us to help care for others.

## Catechesis Corner

### Terminology and Roles

*What distinguishes apostles from disciples?*

Disciples means "students" and refers to any followers of Jesus, while apostles means "one who is sent" and refers to the 12 men chosen by Jesus from among the disciples to serve as leaders of the church.

### Symbolic Structure

*Why did Jesus choose exactly 12 apostles?*

Jesus selected 12 apostles to symbolically mirror the 12 tribes of Israel, appointing them as new leaders of God's people, the Church, establishing continuity between Old Testament Israel and the new Christian community.

## Background

**Exodus 19.1-6a** After bringing the people of Israel safely out of Egypt, God speaks to them, reminding them of His love and protection. He tells them that they are His special people and encourages them to stay close to Him and follow His guidance. This message is important for everyone, including children, as it shows that God loves each of us and wants us to be part of His family. Just as God cared for Israel in the past, He also cares for us today. It's helpful to connect children to the truth that they are special in God's eyes and belong to God.

**Psalms 100** shares a beautiful message about the joy of praising God and acknowledging God's role in our lives. It emphasizes essential themes like love, faithfulness, and the comfort of knowing we are never alone. The psalm encourages children to thank God, helping them recognize that God is always with them, offering protection and support.

**Romans 5:6-11** The second reading teaches that Jesus loves us so much that He gave His life for us, even when we were sinners. Through Jesus, we are brought back into friendship with God. Children often worry about making mistakes. This reading reassures them that God's love is bigger than their mistakes. Jesus loves them always and wants them to stay close to Him.

**Matthew 9.36-10.8** Jesus sees people who are tired, lost, and in need of help. He feels compassion for them and sends His disciples to care for others, heal the sick, and share the Good News. Children can relate to Jesus' kindness and concern for others. They can learn that they, too, can be disciples by helping someone who is lonely, sharing with a friend, praying for others, or showing kindness at home and school.

The readings tell one story: God chooses us, Jesus loves us, and Jesus sends us to help others. Children are invited to recognize that they are loved by God and can share that love through simple acts of kindness every day. The key message is:

"Jesus cares for me, and I can care for others."

## The Liturgy

### Procession from the main Church

After the opening prayer, when all are seated, the leaders come forward and stand facing the altar.

**Dear children, today, we hear how Jesus looks upon everyone with love and compassion. Listen to your leaders, and help you better know that Jesus wants us to share our love with others.**

Once most of the children have formed a procession, the leader with the book proceeds to the celebration site. The second leader usually walks behind the children. Upon arrival at the CLoW room, the leader places the book on the prepared table.

### Welcome

The leaders assist the children in sitting and preparing. **Begin with the Sign of the Cross.** Help the children think and connect their actions as they touch their foreheads, shoulders, and stomachs. The leader may offer the following prayer, in these or similar words.

**Let's quiet our hearts and make the Sign of the Cross.**

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Almighty God,  
You are our hope, and You love us.  
Help us to always follow Jesus.**

**— Amen.**

Invite the children to listen to the readings. Proclaiming all the readings is unnecessary; however, the Gospel must be proclaimed.

## READINGS

### First Reading

Exodus 19:1-6a

A reading from the book of Exodus.

On the third month after the children of Israel <sup>1</sup> had gone out of the land of Egypt, <sup>2</sup>they came to the wilderness of Sinai. <sup>3</sup> They had journeyed from Rephidim, <sup>4</sup> entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain.

Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' <sup>5</sup> wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the children of Israel."

The word of the Lord

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

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<sup>1</sup> God led the Israelites out of Egypt, through the wilderness, and into the land of Canaan that he had promised them.

<sup>2</sup> Egypt served as both the setting for Israel's enslavement and the stage for God's redemptive intervention in the Exodus narrative.

<sup>3</sup> Sinai is a famous mountain of Arabia Petræa, on which God gave the law to Moses. It stands in a kind of peninsula, formed by the two arms of the Red Sea.

<sup>4</sup> A place where the Israelites camped during their wilderness journey.

<sup>5</sup> Large bird of the falcon family noted for its strength, keen eyesight, and graceful flight.

**R.** We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.  
Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come into his presence with singing. **R.**

Know that the Lord is God.  
It is he that made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. **R.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
And his courts with praise.  
Give thanks to him, bless his name. **R.**

For the Lord is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations. **R.**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.

But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.

For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion <sup>6</sup> for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest <sup>7</sup> is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles:<sup>8</sup> first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James, son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans,<sup>9</sup> but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'

Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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<sup>6</sup> Compassion is always both a feeling and the appropriate action based on that feeling.

<sup>7</sup> The practice of gathering grains and crops.

<sup>8</sup> An enoy of Jesus Christ commissioned directly by Him or by other apostles; normally someone who has been taught directly by Jesus and who is invested with the authority to speak on His behalf.

<sup>9</sup> Samaritans were true descendants of Israel and keepers of the Torah. Their chief religious site was Mount Gerizim. The Samaritans believed that the Jerusalem temple and priesthood were illegitimate.

## REIMAGINED READINGS FOR CHILDREN

The reimagined readings below are intended for use after the children have heard the original reading. The intent is to allow the children to listen to the original reading and help them better understand it (not replace it).

Read at a minimum, the Gospel, which has the highest priority, and then ask the children to sit down. You can then read the reimagined reading. Leaders may not have time to read all of the reading. If time permits, after the Gospel, proclaim the Psalm, and then the first reading, if time permits.

Reimagined readers must always remain faithful to the original Scripture's intent, making it age-appropriate for children to understand.

### First Reading

Exodus 19:1-6a

The people of Israel left Egypt and arrived near Mount Sinai. They made a camp there.

Then Moses, the leader, went up the mountain to meet God. God called to Moses and told him to tell the people something wonderful and important: "Look, you have seen how I helped you and want you to be close to me, like an eagle carrying its chicks on its wings.

Keep my promise (our covenant) as you are my special treasure. Everyone belongs to me, but I will choose you to be a people who belong to God in a special way.

**R.** God is good—all the time.  
All the time—God is good.

Shout for joy to the Lord!  
Worship God with a happy heart.  
Come to Him singing! **R.**

Know and say: the Lord is God!  
God made us.  
And we belong to Him. **R.**

The Lord is good,  
and His love stays strong forever,  
for all times and for all generations. **R.**

## Second Reading

Sometimes we do things we shouldn't. But this is the best news: God doesn't stop loving us when we do those things.

The Bible says that while we were still weak, Jesus still cared for us—in fact, he died for us—not because we were perfect, but because God loves us.

If we ever feel far from God—like we don't listen, or we choose the wrong thing—God can still bring us back close again. Through Jesus, we can be friends with God again.

And because of Jesus, we can feel happy in God and say thank you, because Jesus gives us peace with God.

God loves you, even when you're not perfect—and Jesus helps you come back to Him.

## Gospel

Jesus looked at the people and felt compassion for them. They were hurting and needed help—like sheep without a shepherd.

So Jesus told His friends: "There is a large crop in the fields (meaning many people to help) and a lot of good work to do! Ask God to send helpers."

Then Jesus gave His twelve disciples, starting with Simon, who is known as Peter, to help people in Israel. They could help the sick, make people well and share God's good news about Heaven.

Jesus wants His love to reach people through helpers. That means you can help too—by being kind, sharing, and cheering people up. They would do their work without being paid.

## Reflection

The leader may offer this reflection in these or similar words. Remember the amount of time available to return to the main assembly. The leader may wish to reduce the number of questions. An excellent place to begin is the question:

**What did you hear?**

**Have you ever been chosen for something special?** (Team, help, etc.)

**How did it feel when someone chose you?** Allow response.

In today's First Reading, God tells His people that they are very special to Him. God chose them and loved them. The wonderful thing is that God says the same thing to us today.

**Do you think God knows your name?** Allow response.

Yes! God knows each one of us by name and loves us very much.

In the Gospel, Jesus looks at all the people around Him. Some were sad. Some were worried. Some were sick. Some felt lost and alone. When Jesus saw them, He didn't ignore them.

**How do you think Jesus felt when He saw people who were hurting?** Allow response.

The Gospel tells us that Jesus felt compassion. That means He cared deeply about them and wanted to help them.

Let's think about our own lives.

**Can you think of someone who might feel lonely at school?** Allow response.

Jesus wants us to notice people the way He notices them.

Then Jesus sent His disciples out to help others.

**Who are the disciples?** Allow response.

They were Jesus' friends and followers. But guess what? We are followers of Jesus, too!

**What are some ways children can help others?** Allow response. (Sharing, helping at home, etc.)

Every time you help someone, you are showing Jesus' love.

So today remember:

- † God knows you and loves you.
- † Jesus cares about you.
- † Jesus asks you to care for others.

**This week, what is one kind thing you can do to show someone that Jesus loves them?** *Allow response.*

Let's repeat three times:

**Jesus loves me, cares for me, and sends me to care for others.**

**Jesus loves me, cares for me, and sends me to care for others.**

**Jesus loves me, cares for me, and sends me to care for others.**

## Alternative Reflection

This reflection is for older children, teenagers or even young adults. It may provide CLoW leaders with a broader perspective, possibly using the Church readings.

Have you ever noticed that many people around you are carrying heavy burdens, such as anxiety, loneliness, or family struggles? In today's Gospel, Jesus sees the crowds and recognizes their pain; He feels compassion for them, not judging but responding to their needs.

Compassion goes beyond sympathy; it involves allowing others' struggles to move us to action. Jesus then empowers His disciples, inviting them to participate in His mission and extend this compassion to others.

We, too, are invited into this mission. The First Reading reminds us that we are God's treasured possession, and the Second Reading emphasizes Christ's love for us even when we were distant. Acknowledging our identity as loved and valued equips us to act.

Your mission might not involve large crowds, but it might mean making Christ present in your everyday interactions—offering a kind word, standing up for others, refusing gossip, reaching out to a lonely friend, or praying for someone. These are powerful acts of discipleship.

### Reflection Questions

- † **Who in my life might need compassion right now?**
- † **Am I willing to notice people who are often overlooked?**
- † **How can I bring Christ's love into my school, friendships, or online interactions this week?**
- † **Do I see myself as someone Jesus can use to make a difference?**

Jesus sees the needs of the world, and He invites us not only to notice them, but to become part of the answer.

Following the reflection, the prayer leader invites everyone to stand to profess their faith. Recite the Creed or use the sample below to ask the children to respond.

## The Creed

Depending on the time, a simple profession of faith may be made (see below).

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, who gave his life for us?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts and gives us everlasting life?

All: I believe.

Leader: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it.

## Prayer of the Faithful

Leaders may begin the intercessions by announcing the needs they know. The leader may need to repeat and paraphrase the petition, concluding it with the cue for the response: 'We pray.' All respond to each petition by saying, "Lord, hear our prayer." Sample intercessions are below.

The intercessions are said. The Leader introduces them, and an assistant announces them.

The leader says:

**Jesus loves us, cares for us, and sends us to care for others. Trusting in His love, let us bring our prayers before God.**

Assistant:

**For the Church, that all Christians may show the compassion of Jesus and share His love with everyone they meet. We pray to the Lord. R:**

Assistant:

**For leaders of nations and communities, that they may work for peace, justice, and care for those in need. We pray to the Lord. R:**

Assistant:

**For children around the world who do not have enough food, safety, or opportunities to learn, that they may receive the help and care they need. We pray to the Lord. R:**

Assistant:

**For our families, teachers, friends, and parish community, that we may be kind, helpful, and caring to one another. We pray to the Lord. R:**

Assistant:

**For people who are sick, lonely, sad, or afraid, that they may feel the comfort and healing love of Jesus. We pray to the Lord. R:**

The Leader says:

**Loving God, you have chosen us to be your people and sent us to share your love. Hear the prayers we offer through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Return to the church

Ask the children to return to the main assembly. Ask them to return quietly and reflect on what they have heard and what they are now doing. Be mindful of children who may have difficulty finding their families.



## DIocese OF HAMILTON

700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

Readings: Lectionary Sundays and Solemnities,  
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Bulletin: TheKidsBulletin.com – **Goodwill donation suggested**  
John 6:51-58 - handout provided by thewordthisweek.net

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

# Matthew 9:36-10:8

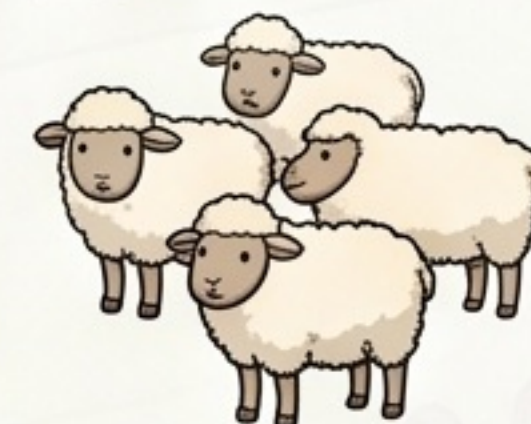
**1.** What was Jesus' feeling toward the crowds?

- A. Anger
- B. Worry
- C. Compassion



**2.** To what did Jesus compare the crowds?

- A. A family
- B. A great army
- C. Sheep without a shepherd



**3.** How did Jesus describe the field of work?

- A. Small and ready
- B. A large crop in the fields
- C. Full of thorny bushes



**4.** Who is Simon, better known as?

- A. John
- B. Andrew
- C. Peter



**5.** What were Jesus' instructions to the disciples?

- A. Go into all Samaritan towns.
- B. Stay only in Israel.
- C. Preach only to Gentiles.



**6.** What kingdom were they to announce?

- A. Israel
- B. Heaven
- C. Their own



**7.** Which of these did Jesus power the disciples to do?

- A. Buy more fields
- B. Heal the sick
- C. Create new laws



**8.** How did Jesus say the disciples should give?

- A. Only after receiving pay
- B. With great expense
- C. Without being paid



## Jesus Sends Us to Do His Work

Today's Gospel reading tells the story of Jesus sending out His twelve apostles to do His work in the nearby towns. He was teaching them to do His work: healing the sick, raising the dead, and even driving out demons. Do you think they might have been a bit nervous, or even scared, to do this work?



Did you know that you are also called to be a disciple of Jesus? Some people are called to be missionaries and bring Jesus' word to far away places, but most of us - especially when we are young - are called to do Jesus' work close to home.

What are some of the ways you can be an apostle for Jesus? Maybe you can pray for sick or hurt people that you know of. You can tell people the stories of Jesus that you know. And did you know that even by being a good example to others, you are teaching them about the love of Jesus by your actions?



Don't be scared - do Jesus' work for the people around you today!

ANSWER to Word Find: APOSTLES

# The Kids' Bulletin

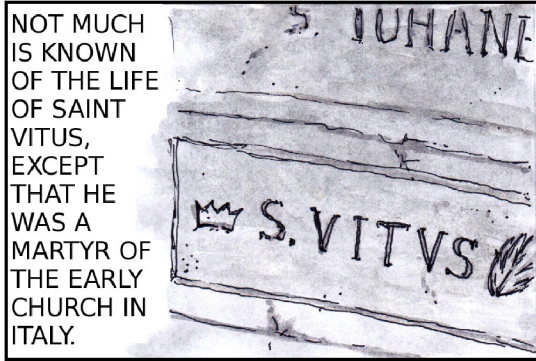
11th Sunday in Ordinary Time



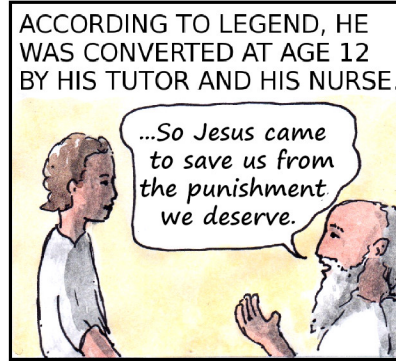
*Jesus sent His Apostles to the surrounding towns to preach and heal. Can you find the way to the nearby town for the Apostles?*

# Saint Vitus

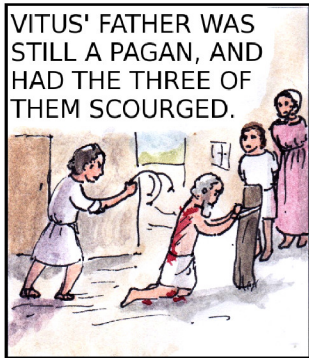
## June 15



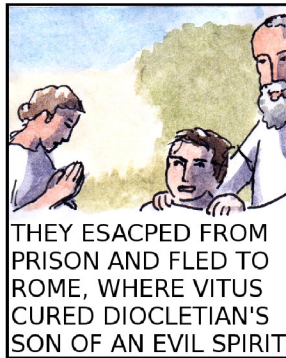
NOT MUCH IS KNOWN OF THE LIFE OF SAINT VITUS, EXCEPT THAT HE WAS A MARTYR OF THE EARLY CHURCH IN ITALY.



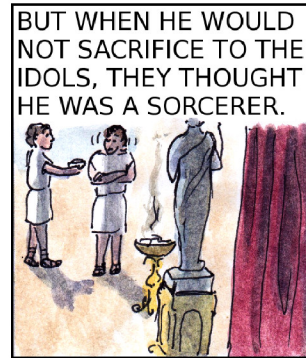
ACCORDING TO LEGEND, HE WAS CONVERTED AT AGE 12 BY HIS TUTOR AND HIS NURSE.



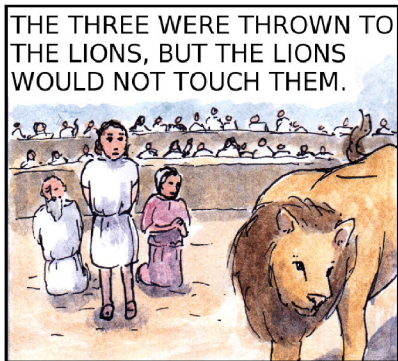
VITUS' FATHER WAS STILL A PAGAN, AND HAD THE THREE OF THEM SCOURGED.



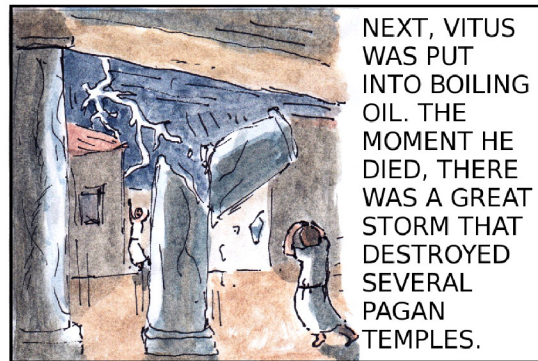
THEY ESCAPED FROM PRISON AND FLED TO ROME, WHERE VITUS CURED DIOCLETIAN'S SON OF AN EVIL SPIRIT.



BUT WHEN HE WOULD NOT SACRIFICE TO THE IDOLS, THEY THOUGHT HE WAS A SORCERER.



THE THREE WERE THROWN TO THE LIONS, BUT THE LIONS WOULD NOT TOUCH THEM.



NEXT, VITUS WAS PUT INTO BOILING OIL. THE MOMENT HE DIED, THERE WAS A GREAT STORM THAT DESTROYED SEVERAL PAGAN TEMPLES.

ALTHOUGH WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT SAINT VITUS, WE DO KNOW THAT HE WAS A HERO WHO GAVE UP HIS LIFE FOR GOD. HE IS THE PATRON SAINT OF DANCERS, ACTORS, AND AGAINST STORMS. HIS NURSE AND HIS TUTOR ARE GOOD EXAMPLES TO US BECAUSE THEY TAUGHT THE FAITH AT THE COST OF THEIR LIVES.

# Jesus Sends out His Followers

## Word-Find

Find the words in CAPITALS hidden in the puzzle.  
Use the leftover letters to fill in the blanks at the end.

The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon called PETER, and his brother ANDREW; JAMES, the son of Zebedee, and his brother JOHN; PHILIP and BARTHOLOMEW, THOMAS and MATTHEW the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and THADDEUS; SIMON from Cana, and JUDAS Iscariot who betrayed him.

JESUS sent out these twelve after INSTRUCTING them thus, "Do not go into PAGAN territory or enter a SAMARITAN town. Go rather to the lost SHEEP of the HOUSE of ISRAEL. As you go, make this PROCLAMATION: 'The KINGDOM of heaven is at hand.'

I P K I N G D O M A J P  
S A B N T H O M A S E O  
R G A S S H E E P A S D  
A A R T I G I V E M U E  
E N T R C S J T P A S M  
L D H U K M A H E R H O  
P R O C L A M A T I O N  
H E L T E T E D E T U S  
I W O I P T S D R A S J  
L Y M N E H T E L N E O  
I O E G R E J U D A S H  
P U W E S W S S I M O N

Cure the SICK, raise the dead, cleanse LEPERS, drive out DEMONS. Without cost YOU have received; without cost you are to GIVE."

