

Feast of Ss. Simon and Jude 2019

Pope Benedict XVI, preaching a homily in 2006, commented on Jesus' choice of the 12 Apostles: *"It was people who interested [Christ], not social classes and labels...This is clearly a lesson for us who are often inclined to accentuate differences and even contrasts, forgetting that in Jesus Christ we are given the strength to get the better of our continual conflicts."*¹

We know very little about Ss. Simon and Jude. You might call them, *the least of the Apostles*. In Luke's Gospel, they are placed at the very bottom of his list, just before Judas Iscariot. Consider even their burial place: whereas St. Peter rests beneath the 70-ton bronze baldichino sculpted by Bernini, Ss. Simon and Jude were placed in the Southern transept of the basilica, at the altar of St. Joseph, just beneath the Blessed Sacrament (most pilgrims would not even know they are there). As they remain humble in the Church's memory, it is likely that the reason we know so little about Simon and Jude is because they were not people of influence at the time of their calling. As Pope Benedict put it, *"It was people who interested Christ, not social classes and labels."*

Who is in charge of our vocation? Our vocation director, our formators, the bishop, the pope? God will work through all of these, but *finally, ultimately*, Jesus Christ is the one who calls. It is His vocation, His call, not ours. All that is left for us to do is to trust that He has placed us where He needs us – not yesterday or tomorrow - but *today*. We don't need to worry about whether or not we will be remembered or memorialized someday. We don't need to worry about the accolades that a brother seminarian receives, when we have been overlooked. We don't have to angst over our place or rank on some list. Rather, we need only to focus daily on our call and prayerfully respond each day with faith and abandonment to the will of God. Ss. Simon and Jude...pray for us.

¹ Pope Benedict XVI, *General Audience*, Saint Peter's Square, Wednesday, 11 October 2006