

Andrew the Apostle; The Saint of the Romanians

Saint Andrew is the apostle that should have a particular spot in the heart of Christian Romanians. Celebrated on November 30th, Saint Andrew also is known as “Saint Andrew of the Romanians,” because he Christianized many Romanians in his time, except they were Dacians at the time. (Dacia is present day Romania and Moldova.) Before all this though, Saint Andrew was an exceptionally important apostle to Jesus Christ.

Apostle Andrew was the “first called” of the twelve apostles. Before being called to Jesus Christ, Andrew was an extremely religious man who was a disciple of John the Baptist. It was John the Baptist who told Andrew and John (the future apostle and evangelist) “Behold the Lamb of God” (John 1.36) when Christ was speaking and they were observing. Andrew later told his brother Simon Peter that he “found the Messiah,” (John 1.41) It was a while later though when Christ officially called Andrew. The New Testament writes that Andrew was the brother of Simon Peter. Both he and his brother Peter were fishermen by trade, and Jesus called them to be his disciples by saying that He will make them “fishers of men.” (Mt 4, 18-20 and Mark 1, 16-18). This is the calling of Andrew the Apostle. He, from then on, loyally followed Jesus right up until the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Andrew the Apostle, along with all the other apostles, went in hiding because they were at a great chance of death. This of course is because they were Christians. Jesus visited the Apostles in hiding 50 days after his resurrection. He gave them the Holy Spirit at this time. It was their duties now to continue spreading the Word of God.

The Apostles went on to try to get the rest of the world believing what’s right. Saint Andrew went to the territory Dacia, which is present day Romania and Moldova. Andrew was the first preacher of the Gospel to the Dacians. He went about this Christening procedure by first addressing the crowds, and then baptizing the people who wanted to be a part of the Christian religion. Because of this, Saint Andrew is the patron saint of Romania. Saint Andrew also lectured and Christianized the people of Asia Minor, Russia, Ukraine, and Scotland. All apostles were quite convincing to a multitude of people; for they had God in them. The Apostles had many hardships as well. They were always in danger of being martyred because they were

Christian. They were often beaten and locked in jail; Saint Andrew and all the other apostles as well.

Saint Andrew is said to have been martyred by crucifixion at Patras in Greece. He had been crucified on a cross of the form called *Crux decussata*, which is an X shaped cross. It is commonly known as "Saint Andrew's Cross." This was performed at his own request, because he saw himself unworthy to be crucified on the same type of cross on which Christ was crucified. This request shows the greatness of Andrew's faith. The relics of the Apostle Andrew can be found at the Basilica of St Andrew in Patras, Greece; the Duomo di Sant'Andrea, Amalfi, Italy; St Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Edinburgh, Scotland, and the Church of St Andrew and St Albert, Warsaw, Poland.

All in all, Saint Andrew the Apostle is an admiration to Romanians. Not only is he the patron of Romania, Saint Andrew is the reason Romanian Christianity exists. For this reason, Saint Andrew is hugely respected by Romanian Christians. A majority of Romanians are Christians to this day, and the privilege that Romanians have to know the true word of God is an honor. Because Romanians are Christians, they know what needs to be done to save their souls, to go into a righteous eternal life. Orthodox Christianity teaches that this life is only the preparation into the everlasting life; where judgment will be made and the soul will either thrive with joy or burn. Romanian Orthodox Christians have the chance to be safe, to live the right life. Of course all apostles and saints are significant, but Saint Andrew the Apostle should really mean something special to Orthodox Romanian Christians, for he is one of the reasons we are able to have Christ so close to us. He laid the bricks to the road of Christianity for our nation.