October 28: Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles

Gospel for the feast of Saints Simon and Jude, with commentary.

Gospel (*Lk* 6:12-19)

In these days Jesus went out to the mountain to pray; and all night he continued in prayer to God. And when it was day, he called his disciples, and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles; Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and

James the son of Alphaeus, and
Simon who was called the Zealot, and
Judas the son of James, and Judas
Iscariot, who became a traitor.

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Commentary

As on other occasions, today's Gospel
shows us how our Lord acts before
an important event. He withdraws by
himself to pray. In this case he
spends the whole night in prayer.
"When it was day," he gathered his
disciples and, from among them, he
chose the twelve Apostles. They will
be the witnesses to Jesus' deeds and
give continuity to his mission.

Today we celebrate two of those
chosen twelve: Simon and Judas
Thaddeus (only Luke calls him Judas
the son of James, while Matthew and
Mark call him Thaddeus). The
difference between the disciples and

that group of twelve, the Apostles, is strongly stressed. Our Lord will ground and build up his Church on them, on those twelve columns.

Our Lord chooses the Apostles and gives them the power to continue his work of salvation. He sends them out, as the Second Vatican Council reminds us, "so that as sharers in his power they might make all peoples his disciples, and sanctify and govern them, and thus spread his Church, and by ministering to it under the guidance of the Lord, direct it all days even to the consummation of the world."[1]

Today's feast and Gospel can help increase our love for Christ's Church, which is apostolic because it was founded on the twelve Apostles, who, from the beginning, established their successors: the bishops.

[1] Second Vatican Council, *Lumen gentium*, no. 19.

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