

**THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF
SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE**

The Missionary Society of St. James the Apostle, founded by Richard Cardinal Cushing in 1958, is an international organization of diocesan missionary priests who volunteer a minimum of five years of their priestly lives to service in Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador. In over 50 years of service, the St. James Society has welcomed members from the United States as well as from Canada, England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Australia, New Zealand, and the Philippines. The Society depends upon the prayers and the financial



support of people who share their interest in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ and in creating a better world for people who have been called "The poorest of the poor." **The official name of the Society is, (which is located inside Saint Stephens Church, Hanover St. (North End) Boston, MA., follows:**

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PRAYER TO SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE

O glorious Apostle, St. James,
who by reason of thy fervent and generous heart
wast chosen by Jesus
to be a witness of His glory on Mount Tabor,
and of His agony in Gethsemane;
thou, whose very name is a symbol of
warfare and victory:
obtain for us strength and consolation
in the unending warfare of this life,
that, having constantly and generously followed Jesus,
we may be victors in the strife
and deserve to receive the victor's crown in heaven.
Amen.



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.pamphletstoinspire.com

**SAINT JAMES THE GREATER
APOSTLE**

FEAST DAY: JULY 25TH



PATRON OF PILGRIMS

SAINT JAMES THE GREATER

*This James is the brother of John the Evangelist. The two were called by Jesus as they worked with their father in a fishing boat on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus had already called another pair of brothers from a similar occupation: Peter and Andrew. "He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him" (Mark 1:19-20).

James was one of the favored three who had the privilege of witnessing the Transfiguration, the raising to life of the daughter of Jairus and the agony in Gethsemane.

Two incidents in the Gospels describe the temperament of this man and his brother. St. Matthew tells that their mother came (Mark says it was the brothers themselves) to ask that they have the seats of honor (one on the right, one on the left of Jesus) in the kingdom. "Jesus said in reply, 'You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?' They said to him, 'We can'" (Matthew 20:22). Jesus then told them they would indeed drink the cup and share his baptism of pain and death, but that sitting at his right hand or left was not his to give—it "is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father" (Matthew 20:23b). It remained to be seen how long it would take to realize the implications of their confident "We can!"

The other disciples became indignant at the ambition of James and John. Then Jesus taught them all the lesson of humble service: The purpose of authority is to serve. They are not to impose their will on others, or lord it over them. This is the position of Jesus himself. He was the servant of all; the service imposed on him was the supreme sacrifice of his own life.

On another occasion, James and John gave evidence that the nickname Jesus gave them—"sons of thunder"—was an apt one. The Samaritans would not welcome Jesus because he was on his way to

hated Jerusalem. "When the disciples James and John saw this they asked, 'Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?' Jesus turned and rebuked them..." (Luke 9:54-55).

James was apparently the first of the apostles to be martyred. "About that time King Herod laid hands upon some members of the church to harm them. He had James, the brother of John, killed by the sword, and when he saw that this was pleasing to the Jews he proceeded to arrest Peter also" (Acts 12:1-3a).

This James, sometimes called James the Greater, is not to be confused with the author of the Letter of James and the leader of the Jerusalem community. *(excerpted from: *Saint of the Day*)

SHELL OF SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE



**The scallop shell of St. James the Greater Apostle was worn as a pendant by pilgrims on their way to Santiago de Compostela, Spain. The shell is both a symbol of baptism (as used by St. John the Baptist) and as a symbol of pilgrimage since thirsty pilgrims used the shell to draw water to drink as they made their way to the shrine of Our Lady of the Pilar. It is said that St. James used the shell as it was small and people would give him food and drink in the shell.

The scallop shell is also incorporated into the Coat of Arms of Pope Benedict XVI. Pope Benedict's affinity for St. Augustine of Hippo (Bishop and Doctor of the Church, 354-430 AD) is well known. While a doctoral candidate in 1953, he wrote his dissertation on The People of God in Augustine's Teaching is always about the Church.

As the story goes, St. Augustine was once walking along the seashore as he meditated on the unfathomable depths of the central mystery of the Christian faith: the Holy Trinity. Augustine noticed a boy carrying water from the sea in a seashell and pouring it into a little hole in the sand. When Augustine asked the boy what he was doing, the boy replied, "I am emptying the sea into this hole." The boy's futile effort to empty the sea into a little hole helped Augustine to understand that no one would ever be able to fathom and exhaust the depths of the mystery of the Triune God.

** (excerpted from: www.creatormundi.com)