

Today is the feast of Saint Barnabas, who is named as an apostle in the Book of Acts.

He was named Joseph, but was referred to in Scripture as Joses – a variant on the name.

When he sold all he had and gave it to the Apostles, he was given the name Barnabas meaning “son of the prophet” or “son of encouragement.”

He preached the Gospel in Antioch, and then went to Tarsus to meet St. Paul; returning to Antioch and then moving on to Cyprus. He went with St. Paul to Jerusalem and then went back to Antioch.

The last we hear about Barnabas, he and St. Paul had a disagreement; and Paul ends up in Cilicia with Silas, and Barnabas and John-Mark end up in Cyprus.

Tradition holds that he was stoned to death. And in the 5th century his tomb was found through a dream. What are believed to be his remains are in a church in Cyprus.

The lives of the Apostles reminds us that we are all called through Baptism and Confirmation to be witnesses of our Faith in Jesus Christ.

May the Eucharist we receive fill us with holy boldness and religious zeal so that we might better conform our lives to the Gospel and show forth the Good News in our daily lives.