



Ss Sebastian & Fabian According to the legend, Sebastian was born at Narbonne, Gaul. He became a soldier in the Roman army in around 283. He is patron of archers, athletes, and soldiers, and is appealed to for protection against plagues. St. Fabian (c. 200-250), a noble Roman by birth, was the Pope from 236 to 250. He is famous for the miraculous nature of his election, in which a dove is said to have descended on his head to mark him to become the next pope.

First Reading: (Heb 7:1-3, 15-17)

Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him; and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. He is without father or mother or genealogy, and has neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest for ever. This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest, not according to a legal requirement concerning bodily descent but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

Ps 109:1-4

R./ You are a priest for ever, a priest like Melchizedek of old

Gospel: (Mk 3:1-6) Jesus entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. And they watched him, to see whether he would heal him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come here." And he said to them, "Is it lawful on the sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out, and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him

REFLECTION

Right at the beginning of the Gospel of Mark, we see that Jesus was a marked man. The Pharisees and the Sadducees were marking whatever he did in order to find fault with him so that they could get rid of him.

Looking at the man with the withered hand, Jesus asks the people around: Is it lawful to do good or bad? To take life or to save life? But the Pharisees were blinded.

Blinded by their hostility, they missed holiness.

Blinded by their hatred, they missed healing.

Blinded by their duty, they missed the divinity.

Blinded by the old way, they missed the new way.

Am I blindfolded too?