



St. Vincent (martyr and deacon) was born at Huesca, near Saragossa, Spain. He was martyred under the Emperor Diocletian around the year 304. Vincent was cruelly tortured because he would not surrender the holy books. He is the patron saint of vinedressers, brick-makers and sailors.

DFirst Reading: (Heb 8:6-13) As it is, Christ has obtained a ministry which is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better; since it is enacted on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion for a second. For he finds fault with them when he says: "The days will come, says the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; for they did not continue in my covenant, and so I paid no heed to them, says the Lord. This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall not teach every one his fellow or every one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will be merciful toward

their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more." In speaking of a new covenant he treats the first as obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Ps 84:8, 10-14

R./ Mercy and faithfulness have met.

Gospel: (Mk 3:13-19) Jesus went up into the hills, and called to him those whom he desired; and they came to him. And he appointed twelve, to be with him, and to be sent out to preach and have authority to cast out demons: Simon whom he surnamed Peter; James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, whom he surnamed Boanerges, that is, sons of thunder; Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

REFLECTION

Mark gives us a glimpse into how the first community of the New Testament comes into being, a model community, which gradually grows around the person of Jesus during the three years of His public ministry. Before making such a decisive decision of handpicking the few who would be his ambassadors to the world, he goes up to the mountain, spends the whole night in prayer seeking his Father's will. Then he chooses whom the Father wanted, not the best or the worthiest by any standard, but persons **capable of being with him** in a relationship of personal fellowship in learning His ways and thus **being made worthy** to be sent out as his apostles. That is the two-fold objective of the Christian call: We are called to discern God's will for us through prayer and communion with him, and then become his living witnesses among the people. For, **Jesus needs His disciples, not as manufacturers but as distributors, pliable enough to be formed and capable of bringing his life-giving Grace to the world.**