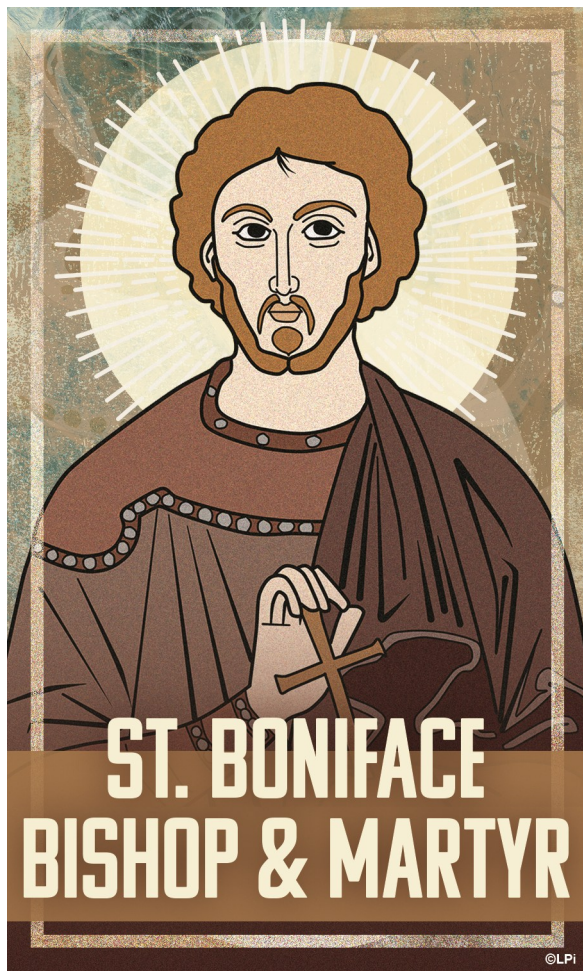


FROM FR. JASON



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Lord once again places before us a great sign of what it means to live the Gospel without compromise. On June 5, the Church celebrates the memorial of St. Boniface, the “Apostle of the Germans,” a man who left his homeland, his security, and his comfort to obey the call of the Risen Lord: “Go and make disciples of all nations.”

Boniface did not go with a program or with human strategies. He went with the Word of God in one hand and the Cross in the other. He was a true evangelizer in the style of the early Church: he cut down the sacred oak of Thor not by force, but by the power of the living God who makes all idols fall. When the tree crashed to the ground and the false god did not strike him, many hearts opened to the true faith. This is the power of the Kerygma, the announcement of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Christian life is not a comfortable adaptation to the world, but a continual exodus. Like Abraham, like the Apostles, like Boniface, we are called to leave our “Ur of the Chaldees,” our old mentality, our fears, our attachment to a Christianity without the Cross. Boniface was martyred on June 5, 754, together with his companions, while he was preparing to confirm a group of newly baptized Christians. He died defending the faith of those he had begotten in Christ, giving his life at the very moment he was about to impose hands and invoke the Holy Spirit upon them.

This is very beautiful and meaningful for us. The saint died precisely in the moment of transmitting the gift of the Holy Spirit to the newly baptized. It reminds us that the Church is born from the pierced side of Christ and grows through the suffering of her witnesses. Are we continuing this same mission of rebirth and transmission of the faith?

Let us ask Saint Boniface to intercede for us so that we may have the same apostolic courage. May the Lord free us from a lukewarm, bourgeois faith and make us true missionaries in the places where God has placed us: in our families, workplaces, and neighborhoods. Let us not be afraid to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, even when it seems that the “sacred oaks” of today’s pagan culture are too strong.

“Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.” This is the law of the Church and of every Christian life. Let us walk forward with joy. The same Lord who accompanied Boniface walks with us today, calling us to a renewed and joyful proclamation of the Gospel.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Jason".