

APRIL 15, 2021
Thursday of the 2nd Week of Easter
John 3: 31-36

“COURAGEOUSLY STAND FOR JESUS”

We see in the First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, their boldness, courage, and determination to proclaim Jesus as their Leader and Saviour. From being reluctant, fearful, and hesitant, Peter and other apostles became the fearless defenders and followers of Jesus in spite of the danger and even death from the leaders of Jerusalem. Peter even said: “We must obey God rather than any human authority”¹ a direct bravery and courage against the powerful Sanhedrin, 71-member ruling council of the Jews. The apostles stand with Christ amidst threat and death.

There are a lot of Christians through out centuries who stand for Christ even facing condemnation, false accusations and endangering even their families and loved ones, and death itself. They hold on to their faith in Christ and willing to die for Christ. One of these is St. Thomas More who during the separation of England to the Pope and the Catholic Church, he stood with his belief and faith by saying “The king’s good servant but God’s first.”² He refused to recognize King Henry VIII as the supreme ruler and head of the Church of England, and for refusing to concede the law of God than the king’s, his faith, truthfulness, and integrity, he lost his life defending Christ and the Church. There are many others like Thomas More who stand for Christ amidst accusations and threats. They are for Christ like the apostles who stood for their Leader and Savior.

My dear sisters and brothers, we are Resurrection people invited and encourage to stand for Christ day in and day out, in season and out of season, in good times and bad until the end of our lives. Are you willing to say with courage and humility that are you a Catholic and for Christ all the time? Do we say and act to stand up for Him or are we always silent and hesitant to defend our faith? Let us imitate the apostles and those who gave up their lives for the Truth and for Christ. May we be strengthened and boldly defend and stand for Christ all the time.

¹ Acts 5: 29 NRSV Catholic Bible Press

² www.catholic.org