

### *The Feast of St. Barnabas, Apostle*

While Barnabas' name does not occur in the the Apostolic lists in the New Testament (Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:16-19; Luke 6:14-16; and Acts 1:13), in Acts 14:14 we read: "*But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude...*" Here Barnabas and Paul together are called "Apostles." Barnabas' given name was Joseph, but he was called Barnabas by the Apostles (Acts 4:36). Scripture may name him as the cousin of the Evangelist St. Mark (Colossians 4:10). After his conversion to the Christian faith, he may have been one of the 70 sent out in the Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 10, verse 1. It is Barnabas that takes Saul to the Apostles and gives a good testimony regarding him (Acts 9:27). Barnabas was later sent to Tarsus to find Paul, and he accompanies Paul on his First great Missionary Journey (Acts 13:4-14:28). Barnabas also testified at the first Apostolic Council, held in Jerusalem (Acts 15:12, Galatians 2:1-21). Later, due to division among them, Barnabas would take John Mark and continue preaching the Gospel, Paul would take Silas (Acts 15:39-40).

It is the tradition of the Church that Barnabas founded the Cypriot Church (the Church on Cyprus). The Church Father Tertullian (d. 240 A.✠ D.) reportedly held Barnabas to be the author of the Epistle to the Hebrews, comports well with Apostolic authorship as a Canonical requirement. Tradition also suggests that Barnabas was martyred for his faith, the paraments for his commemoration are red.

#### **Cover Art – St. Barnabas**

This stained-glass window adorns the Nave of the Old Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Bazas, Gironde, France. The Cathedral, modeled after the great Gothic Cathedrals of France, was built beginning in the 11th century, completed substantially in the 13th & 14th centuries, and damaged badly by the Huegonots in 1561. Repairs and additions through the 16th century continued into the 18th century. It is a World Heritage Site on the *Route of Santiago de Compostela*.

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