

Ss Timothy and Titus 26th January

Reflection

“The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few.”

Paul preached the Gospel to Timothy and Titus and baptized them. The two converts became Paul’s companions and helpers in the ministry. Paul regarded Timothy and Titus as his children in the Lord, and he probably knew the family of each of them. In his letters to them, Paul gave pastoral guidelines and advice for Church leaders and the faithful.

Timothy had a Greek father and a Jewish mother named Eunice. His grandmother Lois was the first to become Christian in the family. Born of a mixed marriage, Timothy practiced Judaism because of his mother, since his father would have objected to his circumcision, yet Paul had Timothy circumcised. For Paul, Timothy was not only his child but also a trusted friend. During an official liturgy, Paul imposed hands on Timothy and entrusted him with the care of the Church in Ephesus. Timothy was very young and timid when Paul made him a leader. Because Timothy drank only water, Paul asked him to take a little wine for the sake of his stomach and his health (Acts 16:1–3; 1 Timothy 1:1–3, 18; 4:12; 5:23; 2 Timothy 1:1–9).

Titus was probably from Antioch; his father and mother were Greek. As a full-blooded Greek, Paul did not have Titus circumcised. For Paul, Titus was not only his child but also a peacemaker and a great friend whose presence gave encouragement in days of affliction. When the community of Corinth was troubled by Paul’s letter to them, Titus, who delivered the letter, also helped restore peace in Corinth. Paul trusted Titus and sent him to Crete to continue the work they had begun and to appoint elders in every town (2 Corinthians 2:12–13; 7:5–15; Galatians 2:1–3; Titus 1:1–5).

Timothy and Titus joined the group of laborers whom the Master called for the harvest. They worked hard as faithful collaborators. Their first concern for each community was to share the peace of Christ with its members (Luke 10:1–9).

We ask for their intercession for the leaders of the Church. Saints Timothy and Titus, pray for us.

Fr. Simon, SMA