

SAINT ANDREW

Saint Andrew was the brother of Simon Peter, and they were fishermen from Bethsaida. St. Andrew had been a disciple of St. John the Baptist, and it was John who pointed out our Lord to him with the words, "This is the Lamb of God." St. Andrew immediately followed our Lord, and Andrew thus has the distinction of being known as the first of the disciples of Jesus.

TRANSVERSE CROSS A cross shaped like the Roman letter x was traditionally named after St. Andrew. St. Andrew requested he be crucified on this form of cross because he felt himself unworthy to die on the same kind of cross as his Lord. It is the national cross of Scotland.

FISH The most frequent use of the fish as a symbol of Christ. The fish is also used as a symbol of Baptism, as the fish cannot live except in water, the true Christian cannot live save through the waters of Baptism.

NET The net is a symbol the disciples for they were fishers of men. The net is not conversion, but confrontational. While all the fish come under scrutiny, some were kept and others were rejected. The net of Jesus' message spread forward and men were caught and held by it and drawn into the light.

THISTLE In antiquity it was thought that the thistle provided protection from evil spirits. Moreover, since it does not seem to spoil after being cut, it was considered a symbol of long life and tenacity. It is also a reminder of the crown of thorns and the Passion of Christ. The thistle is a symbol for St. Andrew who was the patron saint of Scotland.

HYACINTH The hyacinth is sometimes regarded as a symbol of Christian prudence, peace of mind and the desire for Heaven. Some of the Bible's "lilies" are really wild hyacinths, which abundantly grow in the fields cloaking the land with a beautiful blue in springtime.

CRANE The crane represents vigilance for they are always on the alert for fish that may slip out of the net.

BOAT The common name for the boat used in the time of St. Andrew was called a Navicella. A boat is a symbol for eternal life, and ships making for the harbor are likened to souls in search of Heaven.

SEA The lake of Galilee is sometimes called a sea. It is the lowest fresh water lake in the world. Measuring roughly thirteen miles by seven,

it covers some ninety square miles. The best known fish is the Cichlid also known as “St. Peter’s fish.”

CAPERNAUM

Capernaum is a city on the western shore of the Lake of Galilee. It is in this city in the home of St. Andrew that Jesus stayed while in Galilee.

CYPRESS

The Cypress tree is an evergreen tree and thus associated with life after death as it grows straight toward heaven and near to those who suffer. It is a symbol for Christ and the Church. “I am like an evergreen cypress which shelters you, from me come all your blessings.”

Jesus said, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” Jesus is still calling us for this specific task. Chose to alter the course of history.