

April 16, 2020-Thursday, First Week of Easter

Patron saint of coffeehouses

Today is the feast of St. Drogo, the patron saint of coffeehouses.

Drogo was born in 1105 in what is today known as Flanders, an area of southern Belgium near the French border. He was orphaned as an infant, and later blamed himself for the fact that his mother died giving birth to him.

Although his parents had left him with a comfortable lifestyle, Drogo chose to live a simple life. He gave away much of his inheritance, and worked as a shepherd in Sebourg, France. After several years, he sensed a call from God to become a pilgrim, and traveled to religious sites throughout France and Italy, including the tombs of SS. Peter and Paul in Rome.

When illness made him physically unattractive, he lived as a hermit in Sebourg where he built a small room attached to the parish church. He died on this day in 1186 (or 1189), and is the patron saint of shepherds.

No one knows why this ascetic saint is also the patron saint of coffeehouses. Perhaps it was because Drogo would only drink warm water.

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*The angel said, "Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'Jesus has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, I have told you."* (Mt. 28:7)

Sometimes today, it is hard to have hope.

A recent survey indicated that most people are unwilling to place their hope and trust in anything.

We protect hope carefully, especially when it comes to the most important things in life.

We don't want our hopes to be bruised...or completely crushed.

I might watch television and hope that a certain game show contestant wins the big prize or hope that my team wins the game. But that is hope from a safe distance.

But when it comes to the crucial things in my life and the lives of those I love, I can sometimes be reluctant to hope.

The message of Easter speaks directly to this. Jesus tells me that it is safe to hope. Do not be afraid. Jesus has met head-on the things I may fear the most—suffering, failure, sin, death—and he has beaten them all.

It is safe to hope.

*Spend some quiet time with the Lord.*