

May 16, 2020-Saturday, Fifth Week of Easter

Where are the apostles buried?

No one knows for sure where all the apostles are buried, but tradition, unsubstantiated legend, and archeological discoveries provide some suggestions.

The original St. Peter's Basilica was built in 319 A.D. over what was believed to be Peter's tomb. In 1939, while preparing Pope Pius XI's tomb, workers discovered what was thought to be Peter's original tomb. Rather than raise false hopes, Pope Pius XII didn't announce the discovery until 1950. In 1968, Pope Paul VI confirmed that Peter's remains had been found.

John the Apostle is said to be buried in Ephesus, Turkey.

Andrew's head is venerated at St. Andrew's Church in Patras, Greece; his relics are also in the cathedral in Amalfi, Italy, where they were brought from Constantinople during the Fourth Crusade.

The Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain, is said to house the bones of James the Greater.

Thomas is reportedly buried in the San Thome Basilica in Mylapore, a suburb of Madras, India.

The relics of James the Lesser and Philip are under the main altar of the Basilica of the Holy Apostles in Rome. In 2011, researchers reported finding the tomb that once held the bones of St. Philip amid the ruins of a fourth- or fifth-century church in Hierapolis, Turkey.

Several cities claim to have Matthew's remains. One is a village in Kyrgyzstan, where Armenian monks brought the saint's remains.

St. Helena is said to have carried Matthias' relics from Jerusalem and given them to an abbey in Trier, Germany.

Bartholomew's bones were assumed lost at sea...until they washed ashore in southern Italy.

Jesus said: "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father." (John 14:12)

John's Gospel is a very elevated Gospel. He speaks of the Word of God existing before all things came to be. That is why John's symbol is the eagle. The Gospel talks about Christ in the highest way. Christ is always in complete command, knows all things, and is such a high and exalted figure.

My mind can't comprehend all the philosophical and theological questions about God. Even St. Thomas Aquinas, one of the greatest theologians in the history of the Church, is said to have remarked as he was close to death that everything he had written was "straw." Worthless when compared to the great mystery of God.

So where does that leave me? How can I even think about God?

I can look to Jesus and the way he was revealed in the Gospels. Even in the Gospel of John, whenever the exalted Christ comes to the disciples in their struggles, he is merciful, compassionate, and loving.

I know that is how God is.

Spend some quiet time with the Lord