

St Hilarion was born in Thabatha, south of Gaza in Syria Palaestina of pagan parents. He successfully studied rhetoric with a Grammarian in Alexandria. It seems that he was converted to Christianity in Alexandria. According to St. Jerome, he was a thin and delicate youth of fragile health.



First Reading: (Rom 6:19-23) I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once yielded your members to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now yield your members to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But then what return did you get from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the return you get is sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ps 1:1-4, 6

R. / Happy the man who has pleased his trust in the Lord.

Gospel: (12:49-53) Jesus said to his disciples, "I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how I am constrained until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division; for henceforth in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against her mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

REFLECTION

Those who believe in Jesus Christ and his values and are passionately committed to follow him would certainly encounter opposition, persecution and even death. As the very presence of Jesus and His message divided the Jewish society of his time, the radical followers of Jesus would also bring about division in the society and families because some would accept or tolerate his disciples and others would try to destroy them. **When we do not experience any difficulty from others due to our following of Jesus according to the gospel values it is a sign that our Christian life does not make any impact on the lives of the people around us.** Neither Jesus nor his disciples are the cause of any division but the acceptance by some and rejection by some others of the message of Jesus that cause division.