Raise the Cross up high!

Saint Paul’s special greeting

Have you ever heard somebody say, “I wish you well” or “Take care”? Or maybe you have heard “Be well” or even “Have a nice day!” Sometimes we might give somebody a greeting when we say goodbye.

In today’s epistle reading, we read a greeting that Saint Paul writes to the Christians living in Galatia. When Saint Paul writes his letter, he ends it with these words: “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.”

Isn’t this the best thing we can say to somebody, when we wish him well? What could be better than to wish somebody the grace of our Lord? It’s good for this life and the next life in heaven too! When we say, “Have a nice day,” that just lasts for a day, but if we have the grace of Christ with us, then it lasts for forever.

Saint Paul loved the new Christians very much. He wanted them to have something better than just health or happiness for the day. He wanted them to have something very deep, something that lasted a long time, and something that gave them joy forever.

We might be shy to say it to another person, but we can always pray that God will give the “grace of our Lord Jesus Christ” to people around us!
**WORD SEARCH**

Can you find these words in the jumble?

BELGIUM

EPITSTE

GRACE

GREETING

HOLY CROSS

HUMILITY

LAMBERT

SAINT

SNOW

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**WHAT’S IN AN ICON?**

Tomorrow we honor the special feastday of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross!

This is a cross that a priest or bishop can use to bless people.

Can you find the icon of Christ on the cross? Can you find Mary, the Theotokos? Can you find Saint John, Jesus’s friend?

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**BAREFOOT IN THE SNOW**

**SAINT LAMBERT OF BELGIUM**

Has anybody ever blamed you for something you didn’t do? What did you do next? Did you argue? Did you fight? Did you cry out, “I didn’t do it!” Did you blame somebody else?

This week we celebrate a saint who didn’t do any of those things! Saint Lambert was a bishop in Maastricht (today that’s the country of Belgium). For a while, he lived as a humble monk. Once, during the night, Saint Lambert woke up to go pray. He accidentally made too much noise and the abbot said that the person who made the noise had to go stand in front of the cross, barefoot, and in the snow.

When the abbot woke up in the morning, he found Saint Lambert, the bishop, standing there in the snow! And that was the bishop! Saint Lambert didn’t complain. He didn’t argue. He said he was honored to serve God like that.

If you ever go to the country of Belgium, you’ll see lots of churches built to remember Saint Lambert.

Saint Lambert lived more than 1,300 years ago, but one thing is the same. He lived the same way we all want to live as Christians...even today. Saint Lambert was humble, he was kind, he was gentle. What an example for all of us Christians!

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We celebrate Saint Lambert on Thursday, Sept. 17th (OC: Sept. 30th).