Daily Homily
St. Martin of Tours, Bishop
Memorial
32 Week in Ordinary Time, Friday
11 November 2022
USCCB Daily Readings

St. Martin of Tours… I love his story. What a great saint to also have on Veteran's Day, since Martin was known as a soldier of Christ.

He was raised in a pagan time, Christians were in the minority. Martin was in the process of becoming Christian much to the dismay of his family. To prevent him from going on with the process, Martin's father enrolled him in the military, and he was sent away.

While he was out on his patrolling rounds, he came across a poor, half naked beggar in the dead of winter. Martin, got off his horse. He tore his cloak in half and gave the half to the beggar. When Martin turned away from the poor man for just a moment, the man was gone. Just disappeared. Martin thought it odd but dismissed it.

That evening as Martin was sound asleep. The beggar came to him in a dream … more of a vision. The beggar was Jesus speaking to an angel. Jesus was recounting how Martin had given him half his cloak to keep him warm.

That dream, that vision brought Martin to his knees. He put all obstacles aside and sought the Christian faith. Eventually, even his parents converted. He founded a monastery in France and transformed a heavily pagan territory into a believing metropolis.

So many have found obstacles today to live the Christian faith, to coming back to Mass even … let us be bold today, and ask the Lord to use the same means to help them along and to see well and right. Let us pray that the Lord will visit them in dreams and visions to bring them to their knees and conform them more readily and more steadily to the generous and giving heart of Martin, to the generous and giving heart of Jesus himself.