

SAINTS AND SINNERS OF CALVARY

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“And they took Jesus, and led him forth. And bearing his own cross, he went forth to that place which is called Calvary, but in Hebrew Golgotha. Where they crucified him, and with him two others, one on each side, and Jesus in the midst.”

—John 19:16-18

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ST. PETER

THE Prince of the Apostles was outspoken and impetuous. Simon—who would be called Peter (meaning “Rock”)—was always ready to jump in to make a statement or to do something to show his love and loyalty. He was an enthusiast. When his brother Andrew came home one day to tell him that he had found the expected Messiah, Peter wasted no time, but went immediately with Andrew to see Jesus. At this first meeting, Christ looked at Peter and said: “Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is interpreted Peter.” (*John* 1:42).

The character of St. Peter is well exemplified by the incident of the walking on water. The Apostles were returning over the Sea of Galilee against a contrary sea, with rough waters. They rowed from evening until about three in the morning, only to make a few miles. Finally, Jesus appeared in the distance, walking on the waters. He walked as though He were going to pass by. The Apostles, who were perplexed before this, now feared greatly, thinking they must be seeing a ghost. In their fear they could not help shouting out to express their anxiety. No doubt Peter also joined in this chorus. But just as soon as

HEROD ANTIPAS

IN the early morning of Good Friday, two men stood face to face. One was a puppet king, the tetrarch of Galilee and Peraea, who did not by right have the title or the power of king. The other was He who could claim kingship over Heaven and earth. The puppet king was arrayed in the robes of state, surrounded by courtiers and servants. The real King was surrounded by armed guards and outspoken enemies. The puppet king, officially the tetrarch, was selfish and sinful. The real King was ready to give up His spotless life for the sins of men. The name of the one was Herod Antipas; the other was Jesus Christ.

The reason Christ now stood before Herod was that Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea, Idumea and Samaria did not want to make a judgment against his conscience. Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent, and when he heard that He was from Galilee, he immediately sent Him to Herod. (*Luke 23:7*). Herod Antipas was in Jer-usalem at the time because it was the eve of the great feast day of the Pasch. Therefore, the journey from the court of Pilate to that of Herod was not long.

According to Roman law, a man could be tried in the place a crime was committed, or he could be