

Saint
John the Apostle
(first century)

Little children,
love
one
another!





John the Apostle was the youngest of all the Apostles, and he lived the longest. He is called “the beloved disciple” because he is described as “the one whom Jesus loved” (John 13:23). As Jesus was dying on the cross, he entrusted the care of his mother, Mary, to John.

According to tradition, Saint John the Apostle wrote the fourth Gospel, the Gospel of John, and the first of three Letters of John. During a persecution of Christians, John was exiled to the Island of Patmos in Greece. There he received several visions, which he wrote down in what is now known as the Book of Revelation. This is the last book in the Bible. It is called Revelation because it reveals, or shows, the truth about our life here on Earth and the life to come in Heaven. The Book of Revelation encourages us to stay faithful, because Christ has already won the victory for us, the victory over sin and death.

It is said that when John was a very old man, he said one simple phrase over and over: “Little children, love one another.” Perhaps this is why Saint John is known as “the Apostle of Love.”



Prayer

Saint John the Apostle, ask Jesus to help me be his true friend and a true friend to others.



Saint John is called the patron saint of friendship. Write down the names of your friends. As you do so, say a prayer for each one.