

### **In the Annals of Salvation History**

**Their names are not familiar: John, Symeon, Lucius, and Manaen. Perhaps St. Luke foresaw that problem, so on opening chapter 13 of Acts, he described them. John was also called Mark. Symeon was also called Niger. Lucius was the one from Cyrene. Manaen, incredibly, was a friend of Herod. Luke called them prophets and teachers in the Church at Antioch. Their spiritual disciplines included fasting and prayer.**

**Even with those details, the names don't ring a bell. Still, Luke wanted us to know who they were because what happened that day made history. The Holy Spirit spoke to them. We don't know how, but it was probably in the way that many of us attain insight while at prayer.**

**The Holy Spirit told John, Symeon, Lucius and Manaen that God had called two other men to special work, and that the four of them should set these two apostles apart.**

**John, Symeon, Lucius and Manaen did not drop everything to obey the Holy Spirit. First they completed their fasting and prayer.**

**Then they imposed hands on Barnabas and Saul. Those names need no explanation, though we know Saul better by his other name, Paul.**

**You may not be in the limelight today. No one may be putting your name at the head of a chapter of some book. But you can fast. You can pray. You can listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit. When you act on that voice, you will make history—even if no one recognizes your name.**

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