



## SAINT LOUIS ABBEY



Fr. Michael  
Holy Innocents 12.28.07  
Abbey Church

Yesterday we celebrated the feast of unknowing, accidental martyrs, innocent of any human wrongdoing, yet whose tragic ends gave witness to the truth of Jesus Christ.

Today we celebrate the feast of a very different type of martyr, who gave his life full knowing, fully conscious at age 50, having lived a life with its full complement of sin. A Norman-English chancellor & archbishop, citizen of the sophisticated city of London, best friend of a king. It would be hard to find a greater contrast to the poor children of unsophisticated Bethlehem. At yet both died at the whim of kings.

Thomas is ironically of great importance to us. Perhaps because he's English, perhaps because he was of & consorted with the rich & powerful, the leading sector of his society, and did not shrink from speaking to them hard and dangerous truths.

He is surely an example of what God's grace can do with unpromising but willing material. In such weakness as his and ours can God's power be made perfect.

Thomas walked...as we walk...on a razors edge, between this world, with all its power, glory, prestige with its whirl of desire and witchery of paltry things and the most real world of eternity and God.

This path on the razors edge seeks to teach, to lead this world to the truth without losing our integrity or compromising God's mysterious interests by confusing them with our own. The martyr Thomas shows us where this path may lead us. In the words of St. Paul to Timothy, those who live religiously in Christ Jesus cannot avoid persecution.

We are not Holy Innocents. With our weakness, may God's power do something... to bring ourselves and those we serve closer to truth, closer to reality, closer to the God who waits for us even as He reaches out to us.