saints to know

Phoebe, Deacon

Romans 16:1

Feast Day: September 3

Not much is known about Phoebe's life except for the fact that she appears in Paul's letter to the Romans and is named a deacon in the newly forming Christian Church. Her life and presence in this Biblical text shows us that women have always been involved in the ministry and leadership of the church. Her life also shows us that the famous apostles did not do all their work on their own. There were many people who helped them and remain unknown to this day.

Phoebe's position as a deacon in the church meant that she was tasked with sharing Paul's message to others in Rome and communicating with him about the life of the community. She was well trusted by Paul and was dedicated to sharing the Gospel with those around her. Phoebe teaches us that everyone's voice is important in the sharing and teaching of the Gospel.

A Prayer for Phoebe:

Eternal God, who raised up Phoebe
as a deacon in your church
and minister of your Gospel;
Grant us that same grace that,
assisted by her prayers and example,
we too may take the Gospel to the ends of the earth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

