The Conversion of St. Paul of Tarsus

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St. Paul, originally named Saul, was an intelligent and zealous Jewish scholar and Pharisee who fiercely persecuted the first Christians. While on his way to Damascus with permission to arrest Christians, he received a vision of Christ. Jesus rebuked him for his actions and struck him blind, and through this encounter St. Paul was converted. God then used St. Paul and his zeal to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, especially to Gentiles. St. Paul was martyred in Rome in the year 65. The feast of St. Paul's conversion is celebrated on January 25.

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