



Your Own Sainthood

Celebrating the Solemnity of All Saints Day

Rev. 7:2-4, 9-14

Psalm 24:1-6

1 John 3:1-3

Matt. 5:1-12



YOU are a saint. Don't argue with me, I know you're a saint, because a saint is anyone who's either in heaven or on their way to heaven by following Christ. In the Creed we say, "I believe in the communion of saints..." That includes you! It's the whole community of Christ-followers. For All Saints Day, we should include our own sainthood in the celebration of all saints.

Look at Rev. 7:2-4, 9-14. We could see this as a huge prayer meeting in heaven, but it's not just about the after-life. You, right now, are part of that "great multitude" when you worship God enthusiastically. Every time we praise God, we're joining ourselves to the whole communion of saints, including our loved ones who left earth in the Lord's arms.

We're also united to them after our sins are absolved in the mercy of God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, for then we, too, have "washed our robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Until the next time we sin, we're on the Lord's mountain, standing in a holy place, because our hands are sinless, our hearts are clean, and we are not desiring what is vain (as Psalm 24:1-6 says).

The same unity occurs when we receive the Eucharist after making a heartfelt journey through the prayers of repentance and requests for forgiveness that the Church provides during each Mass. That is, until we get mad at the guy in the parking lot who briefly blocks our escape from church into the world.

As 1 John 3:1-3 points out, we are saints because we are God's children. The saints in heaven have the advantage of being free from evil, while we live in a sin-filled world. But notice how we become pure: The hope (i.e., belief in God's promise) that eventually

we'll be holy all the time should energize us to purge our lives of unholiness now. This hope is based on knowing that Christ redeems us from sin, the Father forgives us, and after death, whatever clean-up still remains to be done, it will be done in purgatory.

Matt. 5:1-12 reminds us that we are saints because we are blessed. Isn't anything that God blesses made holy? Therefore, any person whom God blesses is made holy: the poor in spirit, those who mourn and receive the Holy Spirit's comfort, the meek who stand firm in what's right without arrogance or force, and so on down the list of beatitudes. Meditate on each blessing and notice your sainthood AND the challenge to become more saintly by improving how you live the truth of each beatitude.

The Church canonizes saints so we can have role models whose prayers assist us on the journey to heaven. We should not compare our lives to theirs, for we all have different circumstances in which to grow in holiness. We can only compare ourselves to what we used to be like. Meanwhile, we can pray with the saints and accept their spiritual guidance.