

Peace is...Participation in the Communion of Saints

Revelation 7: 14 "These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb."

1 John 3: 1 "See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God."

Reflection: *All Saints Day*

On this feast day, the Church celebrates "all those saints, canonized or not, who enjoy the happiness of the kingdom of heaven. Our relatives and friends, multitudes unknown 'which no one can number from all tribes and peoples and tongues,' stand before God's throne in joyful praise...God's amazing grace has brought them home."¹ We belong to the Communion of Saints, which includes "the faithful on earth, the souls in Purgatory, and the blessed in heaven."² The first reading tells us that the faithful on earth are from every nation, race, and people. We are all the children of God. Do we live as children of God, treating others as our brothers and sisters in Christ?

The Beatitudes

"The word *Beatitude* refers to a state of deep happiness or joy. These Beatitudes are taught by Jesus as the foundations for a life of authentic Christian discipleship and the attainment of ultimate happiness. They give spirit to the Law of the Ten Commandments and bring perfection to moral life. That spirit is ultimately the spirit of love."³

What is your Be-attitude? Are you trying to be merciful? Are you outraged by the injustices and abominations that occur in our society today? Are you mindful of your dependence on God? How can you try to live a more holy life?

The Saints

Jesus calls us to "radical detachment from material goods" and a willingness to share our goods with the poor.⁴ The Saints offer abundant examples of following Christ with perseverance and humility. There are saints from every walk of life, those who have experienced the same trials and difficulties we face, and who inspire us by their good example. We pray to them, for their intercession before God on our behalf.

St Frances Xavier Cabrini (feast day: Nov. 13) was born in Italy, and was not allowed to join the convent because of her poor health. Later, she started her own religious community, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. She was asked by the Bishop to go to the U.S. to serve the Italian immigrants. She founded many orphanages, schools, and hospitals in U.S. and South American cities, including New York, Chicago, and across the country to Denver, where there is a mountaintop shrine in her honor. She was the first American citizen to be canonized (1946).

Action:

- Re-read the Beatitudes: Matthew 5: 3-12. Work on becoming the person God created you to be.
- Help the poor in our community by contributing to the Thanksgiving Food Drive at SJB on 11/22, or by donating to the Whiting Food Pantry.
- Take the time to really look at others, smile, and listen to them. Don't miss opportunities to love.
- Pray to a favorite saint, or learn about other saints through reading or other media.

"A way of satisfying our brethrens' hunger is to share with them whatever we have – to share with them until we ourselves feel what they feel." ~ Bl. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

1. Hoaglund, Victor, C.P., *The Book of Saints*, Regina Press, N.Y., 1986, p.258. 2. *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, USCCB, 2006, p.160-161..
3. *ibid.* pp..308-9. 4. *ibid.* p.308.