

**All Saints & National Vocation Awareness week Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, 020.**

What is so important about All Saints Day?

Well, three things immediately come to mind. One, today is a celebration of **the fulfilment of the promises of Christ**, a celebration of the **victory won by Jesus**, a celebration of the **life that awaits each of us who unite our lives with his**. We gather to give thanks not for something unattainable, but for a precious gift given through God's great love for us. The Saints are not just those whom the church names. They are **every man and woman who is resting in God's loving embrace for all eternity**.

Two, today is a celebration of the deep and profound truth that **the bonds we make in this life are not broken by death**. They remain. They are alive. They are right here in our midst, celebrating with us, and praising God with us. Can you feel them? St. Francis. St. Anthony. St. Teresa. St. Thomas Aquinas. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. St. Teresa of Calcutta.

And because these bonds are not broken by death, we believe that **our prayers truly matter**, and the **prayers of the Saints matter**. Just as you might ask a friend to pray for you, we turn to Saints and **ask for their prayers**. As Catholic we believe that it is **good and holy thing to pray for the dead, and good and holy thing to ask for their prayers**. We're still all united in faith with one another. Death has not changed that. Our celebrations today and tomorrow remind us of that.

And three, today is a celebration in which we are invited **to look intently at the lives of the Saints to see what faithfulness looks like**. Not perfection. Not something out of reach. Faithfulness. The Church, in its wisdom, **names Saints for us** so that we can strive to imitate them, strive to imitate their love and perseverance and compassion and humility and generosity. We are all **different**. That is obvious. **But so, are they?** There isn't just **one way to live a Christian life**, there are many. Saints help us see that. But they also show us that there is a common blueprint, **a certain orientation of heart**, a willingness to **embrace the attitudes** we just heard in today's Gospel Passage.

Three ways this Holy Day can make a **real and lasting difference in our lives**.

So, let's **rekindle a love for Saints** in our own spiritual lives. Let's try to **model our lives after theirs**. Let's ask them for **their prayers**. And let's rejoice that what has been won for them has been **won for us**. We just need to do what we can to **follow in Jesus' footsteps as they did**. That's all God asks.

All holy men and women, pray for us. And intercedes for us for vocation as we celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week.