

Solemnity of All Saints

Revelations 7:2-4, 9-14
Ps 24:1-6
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12a

Monday November 2

All Souls Day

Wisdom 3:1-9
Romans 5:5-11
or Romans 6:3-9
John 6:37-40

Tuesday November 3

Philippians 2:5-11
Ps 22:26b-32
Luke 14:15-24

Wednesday November 4

St. Charles Borromeo

Philippians 2:12-18
Ps 27:1,4,13-14
Luke 14:25-33

Thursday November 5

Philippians 3:3-8a
Ps 105:2-7
Luke 15:1-10

Friday November 6

Philippians 3:17--4:1
Ps 122:1-5
Luke 16:1-8

Saturday November 7

Philippians 4:10-19
Ps 112:1b-2,5-6,8a,9
Luke 16:9-15

You are a saint! A saint is anyone who's either in heaven or on their way to heaven.

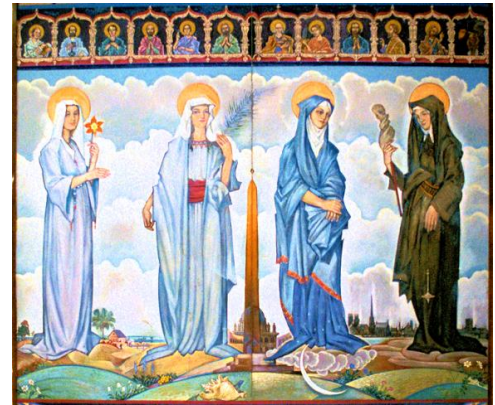
As followers of Christ, we have been redeemed from sin. We have been reborn as "saints" and are no longer "sinners." Yes, we do sin every day; we have not yet perfected our sainthood. So we grow in holiness by learning to become more fully who God created us to be.

Today's first reading could be describing 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 passed into the after-life in the Lord's arms.

We're also united to them after our sins are absolved in 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 the responsorial Psalm says).

As the second reading 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



behave like Christ all the time should energize us to purge unholiness from our lives today. 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 accomplished thanks to purgatory.

The Church canonizes saints so we can have role models and so we know they're available for prayer support to assist us on our journey to heaven. May we learn from their example -- not to compare our lives to theirs, for we all have different circumstances in which to grow in holiness, but to be blessed by their spiritual guidance.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. How have you grown in holiness over the years?
2. Choose one way to grow in holiness this week.
3. Who is your favorite Saint in heaven? Why?
4. Name someone you know who is a good model of saintliness. What is holy about that person?