

All Saints Day

My beloved brothers and sisters, today we are celebrating the Glory of God made fully visible in the lives of men and women who lived the Beatitudes and the Gospel in their lives. This day celebrates what God has begun in each of us at our Baptism and enabled in us by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at our Confirmation and in my Holy Ordination. That is why St. Paul refers to the Baptized as: Saints! He is affirming our dignity as God's beloved Children through Jesus Christ!

As we look at all of the troubles now at work in our times, it is easy to become discouraged. That discernment is from the devil, who wants us to focus only upon the darkness. The Saints are those who radiate the light of Jesus Christ into the darkness. The darkness can never, never overcome the light. Even a single birthday candle on the darkest of nights in a desert, is visible from thirty miles away. Even so, the saints of our time make visible the undaunted light of Jesus Christ shining in the darkness; and there are so many!

God gives us the Saints to make visible the Glorious power of God, even in the midst of sin. The Beatitudes reflect, not the attitudes of this poor, fallen world infected by sin, in which the devil tries to strip us of our human dignity; rather, God in the flesh, Jesus Christ has, in Himself, turned the order of sin, death, and disgrace, into Grace, in which our true human dignity is affirmed and made visible! In His infinite embrace of all that is human, Jesus has transformed human life and given it eternal meaning: Blessed are the poor. In our human poverty, Jesus has transformed us into little tiny children, clinging to our loving papa in heaven. Indeed, we enter the very heart of God by our poverty in the hearts of Jesus and Mary! It is our littleness that attracts the infinite mercy of our God – the only thing that He asks of us in Jesus, is to stake our lives and our eternities upon Him.

St. Therese, the Little Flower wrote that she knew that she was too little to do the great things of the great saints, and so, she radically depended upon God to transform her life into love! And that is what she became!

All of the Saints make what was damaged by sin and death, now wholly transparent to Divine Glory of God. The Saints teach us how: abandon yourself to the desire of God for you, constantly surrender yourself to His Divine Work in you, and He will shine in you! I pray a simple little prayer every single day: “Lord, consume me in the fire of your Divine Love, make me fire within the fire of your love. Holy Mother of God, together with your Son Jesus, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament, I desire to have one heart, one mind, one soul, one body, one love and one will with you, throughout this day, and for all of eternity!” It is God who inspires this desire, and if we cooperate with Him, we too, shall celebrate this day with Him for all of eternity!