

## **All Saints 2016**

### **I Saints in our Catholic tradition...**

Saints are our heroes...

The job of heroes... Heroes challenge us and inspire us. Our saints also intercede for us with our loving Father.

We live in an age when heroes are suspect...

- 1.) We must remember that few of our saints were perfect, fault free, without any character defects... just look at Peter, our first pope, who denied he even knew Christ, and who was conspicuously absent at the foot of the cross at a time when Jesus so needed friends to be with him as he died that horrible death. All of the handpicked apostles of Jesus were also conspicuously absent from Calvary, except for the young John. What we do know about so many saints was that they were not perfect all of their lives.

- 2.) Another aspect of the saints lives... each in his or her own way became what the book of Wisdom describes as "friends of God and Jesus, and prophets".

"Friends of God and Jesus" – people who deeply loved God and grew close to God and to Jesus. This is a lifelong process, and it shows in a person's life...

"Prophets" – prophets are faithful people of God who declare God's message to their people... warning them, encouraging them and inspiring them.

- 3.) Saints also show us how God's grace enters a person's life and shapes and transforms that life, and how each saint generously responded to God's grace in their lives.

### **II What About Us**

We are handpicked by Jesus to continue his mission in the part of the garden Jesus gave us to take care of.

Story... Let the Light Shine Thru

We have received the grace filled light of Christ in our lives and into our hearts... we must give it away. We can't hoard it. We are called to let it shine thru our lives. It will shine thru our personalities, our talents, our good works, our faithfulness to God and even in the midst of our suffering and pain – as God's light shone thru the Passion of Jesus.

If we don't let God's light shine thru our lives it might just burn low and even die out in the part of the garden God has given us to cultivate. We are

called by Jesus to bring the light of God's Kingdom, the seed of God's Kingdom, the yeast of God's Kingdom into our world.  
We are called to let the light shine thru, even when we have feet of clay.

### **Conclusion**

We are called to become saints in our day...

We are not perfect, but we are baptized into God's family and God's Kingdom- we are anointed to be witnesses to God's values in our world.

We walk in the footsteps of Jesus and the Saints.

This is quite a challenge! How do we do it?

- One day at a time
- One prayer at a time
- One person at a time
- We come to this altar, offering our life to God today, along with Jesus' offering.
- We receive from this altar the very body and blood of our brother Jesus - He so wants to come to us and abide with us. We invite Him into our heart today...

*Let us pray... Jesus, come into my heart now. Love me, strengthen me, heal me. Help me to know that you are my brother and shepherd. Help me to act as a friend of yours in my life, today.  
Help me to continue your mission in my world today.*