

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Do you have a favorite saint? You may have been named after a saint and have a connection with that saint. Perhaps your confirmation saint or another saint you have come across plays an important role in your life. You know that the Polish saints are some of my favorites – St. John Paul II, St. Faustina, St. Maximilian Kolbe to name a few. There are other saints I have come to know. Saints like St. John Vianney who is the patron saint of priests and St. Kateri Tekakwitha whose memorial is celebrated on my birthday.

November begins by celebrating All Saints Day. As the Church year is soon coming to an end we recognize that in all things we have the Communion of Saints interceding for us. I remember a homily given on All Saints Day some years ago. The priest gave this image of a huge stadium filled with all the saints in the seats. Then he asked us to imagine ourselves standing in the middle of the field, at the fifty-yard line, and every saint was cheering for us. I often preach to the school children that the saints are our heroes. Popular culture certainly has wonderful people by which we can be inspired. However, our saints are our true heroes because their heroism is exemplified by their faithful surrender to God.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, “The intercession of the saints. ‘Being more closely united to Christ, those who dwell in heaven fix the whole Church more firmly in holiness.... They do not cease to intercede with the Father for us, as they proffer the merits which they acquired on earth through the one mediator between God and men, Christ Jesus.... So by their fraternal concern is our weakness greatly helped” (CCC 956). I invite all of us to deepen our relationship with the saints, especially those we consider to be close friends. How beautiful our belief that they do not cease to intercede with the Father for us. If we ever feel alone in our prayer, might we take comfort that we have the saints always by our side. St. Dominic once said, “Do not weep, for I shall be more useful to you after my death and I shall help then more effectively than during my life”. He knew well what awaited him. It is the same thing that awaits. We are all called to be saints. Sainthood is not reserved for the chosen few but for all the baptized. We might not all be canonized but we can be saints nonetheless.

Finally, “The witnesses who have preceded us into the kingdom, [Cf. Heb 12:1.] especially those whom the Church recognizes as saints, share in the living tradition of prayer by the example of their lives, the transmission of their writings, and their prayer today. They contemplate God, praise him and constantly care for those whom they have left on earth. When they entered into the joy of their Master, they were 'put in charge of many things.' [Cf. Mt 25:21.] Their intercession is their most exalted service to God's plan. We can and should ask them to intercede for us and for the whole world” (CCC 2683).

All holy men and women, saints of God...pray for us!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz
Pastor