

November 1, 2017 All Saints Day

Today we celebrate the Feast of All Saints. A feast that has grown up and been enlightened by the Holy Spirit, throughout time. We didn't used to have this feast in the Church. We used to think that martyrs were holier, because they died for the faith, but we didn't as yet, assign them sainthood status. About the seventh century, the 600's, the Pope had heard about the Eastern Rite of the Catholic Church. There are 24 rites or languages used to say Mass in the Catholic Church. Twenty-two of them are Eastern Rite, two are Western Rite, we are one of them. The Eastern Rites were quicker to recognize saints in the martyrs, than we were on this side. Our Pope saw that and said, "I've got a problem in the center of Rome. I've got this big huge, round, temple and it's got twelve altars in it." It's got a hole in the roof, because the Romans did not know how to make a complete dome. When it rains, water comes down and it took them centuries to put a drain in. Otherwise it just had to be swept out. He said, "here's this pagan temple and I need to do something with it." He had an idea. He said, "I'm going to consecrate this to Our Lady Queen of Heaven and the Holy Martyrs." And, thus began the recognition of saints. The martyrs were the first saints, they died for the faith, giving their life, their blood. Gradually, over time, we recognized that other people can have sainthood. They can die a regular death, but they live a holy life. At first, they were proclaimed saints by the people who knew them. You know how difficult that is. Families are the first to say, "oh, he's not holy," so that's a difficult thing. In the 1500's of course, we had the formal process we have now of miracles, paperwork, all that kind of thing. The feast was originally on May 29<sup>th</sup>. The Eastern rites had it there. The Church moved it to where it is today, November 1<sup>st</sup>. The reason they did that was because, we needed to combat the evil that was taking place on Halloween. All the way back to pagan times, peoples have believed that on the night of October 31<sup>st</sup>, the veil between, the barrier between the evil and this world, the supernatural in this world, got so thin that evil beings could cross during the night. So, they tried to keep big bonfires going throughout the night. Gradually, over time, Halloween has taken on a meaning it is not supposed to have. Halloween is now where people celebrate being something they're not. Worshipping devils, demons, witches, those kinds of things. This has happened all the way back for centuries. So, the Pope says, "we need to move this saint feast right after that, to do away with some of that evil. To do away with the recognition in the people of the evil. We need to train the people in what holiness is. Not to go for the evil, but to go for holiness." Well, that worked for a time, but as we see in today's world, Halloween has taken on a greater significance and is equal to Christmas in the amount of money spent. The reason being, we have books now, we have movies now, that everyone watches including Catholics, and they are desensitized to evil and immorality. Immorality breeds evil. People watch "Night of the Living Dead," people read "Harry Potter." What's interesting about Harry Potter was this. The generation that grew up on Harry Potter, most of the women now, in that generation are turning to witches. Getting into witchcraft. There was a study done on it the other day. It desensitizes us to the wrong thing. There is another series that people are watching called, "Game of Thrones," it has sex, it has violence. I don't watch it, I've never seen it, I've read about it. People are saying to me, "it has some nudity, it has some violence, but it's done very well." So is pornography evidently. It has nudity, it has violence, it has cussing, but it's done very well because it's allowed to keep going. It desensitizes us to immorality and evil. We begin to accept this, even practicing Catholics start accepting this. They forget that we are about modesty, we're about good, we're about sainthood. All Saints, is to remind us what we are about.

I read in a Catholic website this morning, it says, "today's feast is dedicated mostly to the saints with a capital "S" that have been canonized by the Church." This is wrong. This feast is dedicated to the saints

with a small “s”. They don’t have anybody sending them mail. Like Saint Anthony, “help me find my car keys.” Saint Jude, “help me with the impossible.” These are saints that have mailboxes in heaven. The other ones don’t. These are people we may have known, but, the Church doesn’t know about them. We see, that this feast was to show us holiness, to combat the evil that is proliferating our times. To get the people to realize, even in the Catholic Church, this is not to be taken lightly. The exorcists are letting us know more and more, they are saying, “we are losing the battle against evil.” People are so desensitized to it, they open themselves up to it.

We are called, not to be vampires, not to be zombies, not to be any of that garbage, witches, we are called to be saints. We are called to be holy. People say sometimes, “I have a little baby in heaven, that is an angel.” No. Human beings are not called to be angels. Human beings are called to be saints. Right now, Saint Paul tells us, we are a little lower than the angels. When we die, and get to heaven, we are going to be higher than the angels. Why? Jesus Christ did not die for angels. Jesus Christ died for human beings. We are called to be saints. Jesus is the son of God and He is also a saint. Mary is saint, Joseph is a saint. They were called to perfection. How do saints happen? Saints happen, because like the gospel says; following the beatitudes, being charitable, listening to the Word of God, listening to the Pope and the Church. They exist to keep us from going on the wrong path. They exist to make us holy and to get us to heaven. The saints are the ones in heaven. To be in heaven is to be a saint. There are so many people in heaven, supposedly, that’s what I’m told, that we can’t even begin to comprehend. But, there are just as many going to hell, they say. Because, they are not listening. They are participating in what the world says. So many people, good practicing Christians tell me, “you know, it’s on the best seller list, it’s the number one watched movie.” So. Christians, to be a saint, is to tell yourself, no, don’t do that, don’t watch that, don’t read that, don’t listen to that. A saint, is to go against the things of the world that it says are okay. The world says abortion is okay. Killing little babies before they have a chance to breath is okay. No, it’s not. The world says killing senior citizens, without their knowledge now, is okay. No, it’s not. All the things the world is telling us, people say it’s okay because the world says it’s okay. The supreme court says it, so it must be okay. I knew a priest who thought like that. He thought that if the supreme court said it was okay, then it was okay for Catholics. He ended up in a mental institution because he was living a dual life. His brain was trying to wrap itself around two different realities. We cannot fall for the evil. We cannot fall for what the world says. This is not what we are called to be. We are called to be greater than the world. Greater than anything else, is what a saint is. This feast today reminds us just how high we are supposed to go. Just how high our goal is set. The world says, “oh no, come down lower, have sex outside of marriage, take drugs, get yourself drunk all the time because then you won’t have to worry about getting in trouble, it’s not your fault, it’s Budweiser’s.” No, it’s not. We are called to be holy and to be saints. We do that by the beatitudes, the Gospel, the Church, the Pope. We do that by saying, “okay, I’m going to have to give up something, I’m going to have to fast, I’m going to have to suffer a little bit.” And, that’s okay because in heaven, that’s the crown that we receive. In it, the jewels are; what did we suffer, what did we give up. If we decide, you know what, I’m going to tear my television out of my house and never watch it again. There’s a jewel in the crown in heaven for you, that says you gave up the immorality that comes across that screen. Who is the angel of light, that they are using now, to transform us into people that are not true Christians? Lucifer. What was his other name? Satan. The devil was the angel of light. Today, light is being used to transform us from Christians into non-Christians. We think we are, but we’ve been brainwashed. We have to be careful. We are called to be saints, nothing else, because there is nothing else. That is the ultimate goal. Today’s feast says it all. All Saints. Each and every one of us, we look in the mirror, tonight, tomorrow morning,

whenever we do what we need to do in the mirror, we are called to be saints. Say your name. Saint Francisco, Saint John, Saint Mary, put Saint in front of your name. Don't laugh, because that's what you're called to be. Let the rest of your family know it too. Let them know, "you're supposed to be a saint." "You're supposed to be a saint." If we call each other on that, I bet we would be able to do away with evil in the world today and God would be very very happy.

Tomorrow we celebrate the Feast of All Souls. That is the other part of the Church. There are three parts of the Church. We the people on the earth are called the church militant, because we are supposed to be fighting evil. Not going along with it. The church militant, fighting. Today we celebrate the church triumphant. Those who have made it to heaven. They don't need our prayers but we need to pray for them because it's good for us. Then, tomorrow, the church suffering. Those people in purgatory, who know they are going to heaven, but they have to work out some cleansing of their souls that they did not do on this earth. So, in the three days' time, we cover the whole Church. All three parts of it. You and I are called, not to be church suffering, we are called to be church triumphant. This feast today reminds us, who we are supposed to be and what we're supposed to be.

God Bless You.