

Dear Padre,

How does a person become a saint?

Saint Alphonsus Liguori challenged those who entered the Redemptorists saying, "Don't become a Redemptorist unless you want to be a saint." I would widen his expression to say, "Don't get baptized unless you want to be a saint." To be a saint means that you want to go to heaven. Most people are not canonized, but anyone who leads a holy life is a member of the communion of saints. This mystical body spans heaven, earth, and purgatory. As St. Paul said, "We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1).

Technically speaking, to be canonized, that is, given the title of "saint" by the Church, a person's life should serve as a model for others, and two miracles must be attributed to his or her intercession. The formal process begins after death with the creation of the person's "cause," often with the leadership of local clergy.

The beatitudes offer us a blueprint for holiness. If we are poor in spirit, mourning, meek, hungry for righteousness, merciful, pure, peacemakers, or persecuted for doing what is right, we are on the road to sainthood. Reflect on one of the beatitudes. It can be one you do well or one that challenges you. Discern how you live it out and how you could live it out better. Slowly you will find yourself growing holier, and one day you will find yourself a saint in heaven. ●

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSsR / DearPadre.org

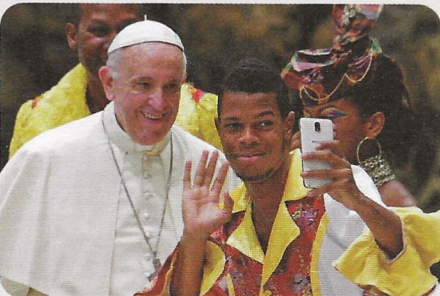


Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991–2006) served the needy and built an internet gateway for exploring eucharistic miracles.

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

This is the test: if I say, "I love God," and do not love my neighbor, it does not work. The verification that I love God is that I love my neighbor. As long as there is a brother or sister to whom we close our hearts, we will still be far from being disciples as Jesus asks us.

ANGELUS, ROME, OCTOBER 25, 2020



MONDAY

October 30
Weekday
Rom 8:12–17
Lk 13:10–17

TUESDAY

October 31
Weekday
Rom 8:18–25
Lk 13:18–21

WEDNESDAY

November 1
All Saints
Rev 7:2–4, 9–14
1 Jn 3:1–3
Mt 5:1–12a

THURSDAY

NOVEMBER 2
Commemoration of All
the Faithful Departed
(All Souls' Day)
Any readings from no.
668 in the Lectionary
or from the Masses
for the Dead

FRIDAY

November 3
Weekday
Rom 9:1–5
Lk 14:1–6

SATURDAY

November 4
St. Charles Borromeo,
Bishop
Rom 11:1–2a, 11–12,
25–29
Lk 14:1, 7–11

SUNDAY

November 5
Thirty-first Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Mal 1:14b–2:2b, 8–10
1 Thes 2:7b–9, 13
Mt 23:1–12

Daybreaks inspires during our Church's holiest seasons

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