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St Malachy Catholic Church

A community united by the Mystery of God

Founded in June 1971

*"Today salvation has come to this house
and to save what was lost."*

Luke 19:10

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 30, 2022

"Today, the liturgy presents for our meditation the well-known Gospel episode of Jesus' meeting with Zacchaeus in the city of Jericho. *Who was Zacchaeus? A rich man who was a "publican" by profession, that is, a tax collector for the Roman authorities, hence, viewed as a public sinner. Having heard that Jesus would be passing through Jericho, the man was consumed by a great desire to see him, and because he was small of stature, he climbed up into a tree.*

Jesus stopped exactly under that tree and addressed him by name: "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today" (Lk 19: 5). What a message this simple sentence contains! "Zacchaeus": Jesus called by name a man despised by all. "Today": yes, this very moment was the moment of his salvation. "I must stay": why "I must"? Because the Father, rich in mercy, wants Jesus "to seek and to save the lost" (Lk 19: 10).

The grace of that unexpected meeting was such that it completely changed Zacchaeus' life: "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold" (Lk 19: 8). Once again, the Gospel tells us that love, born in God's heart and working through man's heart, is the power that renews the world. ". *Benedict XVI, Angelus, Nov 4, 2007*

Pastor

Rev. Alfredo Rolón

Deacons

Edoualdo Desmornes
Bernard Bonnick
Humberto Reyes

RECTORY

6200 John Horan Terrace
Tamarac, Florida 33321
(located directly
behind the Church)

Monday

Closed at morning
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Tuesday to Thursday

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
(closed noon till 1:00 PM)
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Friday

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Closed at afternoon

**BLESSED SACRAMENT
ADORATION
IN THE CHAPEL**

Monday to Sunday
9:00am to 3:30 pm
Closed on Holidays

FIRST FRIDAY 8:30 AM

Holy Mass in honor
to the Sacred Heart of Je-
sus

FIRST SATURDAY 8:30 AM

Holy Mass & Anointing
In reparation
for blasphemies against the
Immaculate Heart of Mary

DAILY MASSES: 8:30 AM
Live-streamed daily
in our website

SUNDAY VIGIL MASS 5:30 PM Saturday

SUNDAY MASSES
8:30 AM - English
10:30 AM - English
12:30 PM - Spanish
2:30 PM - Creole/French

Welcome to Saint Malachy Church

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PRIEST</u>	<u>INTENTION</u>
Sat 29th	05:30 PM	Fr. López	17 Wedding Anniv. Of Jimmy Zúñiga & Elena Udovenko
Sun 30th	08:30 AM	Fr. Rolón	Rosalba de Ramírez† req. Carlos Ramírez; Salvatore & Giusepina M.†
	10:30 AM	Fr. Rolón	Cass Francis Mack†; John Shumski†; Vinoo Persaud†; Souls in Purgatory† Theresa Banks† req. by Michael; Jim Kregas†; Diego Patiño† Baby Michael Yahshua Thomas-Jeannot†, Thanksgiving for the Beckles Family
	12:30 PM	Fr. Rolón	Carmen Julia Cabeza†; Claudia Cadenas†; Orfa Stella Riveras†; Victoriano Mateos†; Olga Rodríguez†; Pasinato†
	02:30 PM	Fr. Didi	Parishioners Living and Deceased
Mon 31st	08:30 AM	Fr. Rolón	Souls in Purgatory†; In reparation to the Most Blessed Sacrament
Tue 1st	08:30 AM	Fr. Rolón	In honor to the Holy Face of Jesus
	07:00 PM	Fr. Rolón	In thanksgiving to All Saints req. By Lounas Severe & Family
Wed 2nd	08:30 AM	Fr. Rolón	Souls in Purgatory† req. by Lounas Severe; Daniel Regalado Hurtado† req. by Haydee Regalado; Carlos Cruz† req. by Mendez Román Family
	07:00 PM	Fr. Rolón	Souls in Purgatory†
Thu 3rd	08:30 AM	Fr. López	Regina Alvarez† req. by Jennifer Alvarez In honor to St Malachy of Armagh & St Martin of Porres;
Fri 4th	08:30 AM	Fr. Rolón	Remilia Jean† req. by Family; Wellbeing of Agustin Vallo req. by Adriana Vallo In honor to St Charles Borromeo
Sat 5th	08:30 AM	Fr. Rolón	Deceased Military of US†; Pitit Mariman Marie† (2nd Anniversary) Deceased Members of Legion of Mary req. by Marjorie Austin
	05:30 PM	Fr. López	Jennie Cotoia†; Susan Cotoia†; Antonio Cotoia†; Wellbeing of Sasha Sanmillan req. by Ralph Sanmillan

Sacraments

Baptisms- visit the rectory at least 3 months in advanced. Baptisms are the last Saturday of the month. Parents and Godparents **MUST** attend a one hour class offered on the 2nd Saturday of the month.

Religious Education- Call Mrs. Pérez at (954)726-1237 ext. 1013.

Marriage- Please contact the Rectory at least 6 months prior in order to reserve date and fill out the necessary forms and requirements.

Confessions- Saturdays: 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM.

Anointing of the sick- Please call the rectory for more information.

In your charity please remember in your prayers the needs and health of:



Enrique and Marbett Mercado, Connie Panebianco, Carlos Moreno, Mufida, Ismail, Marie Sommovigo, Joseph Elsasser, Cancer patients, Jaime Rivas, Susell Lawrence, Jessica Vega, Cristóbal Montori, Theresa Backer

2022 Parish ABCD Campaign

\$68,571.85
Goal
(100%)

\$41,104.50
Gifts Received
(59.94%)

\$27,467.35
We need
(40.05%)



Oct 22, 2022

First Collection \$7,265.00
Second Collection \$ 300.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Oct. 30, 2022: Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Do I want to "see Christ"?

Wis 11:22-12:2:
You have compassion, O Lord, on all, for you love all beings.

Ps 144:1bc-2. 8-9. 10-11. 13cd-14:
I will bless your name forever, my God, my king.

2 Thess 1:11-2:2:
May Christ be glorified in you, and you in him.

Lk 19:1-10:
The Son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

"The passage from the Gospel of St. Luke, which today's liturgy proposes for meditation on the thirty-first Sunday of the year, recalls the episode that took place while Jesus was passing through the city of Jericho.

It was such a significant event that, although we already know it by heart, it is necessary to meditate again with attention on each of its elements. Zacchaeus was

not only a tax collector (just as Levi had been, then the Apostle Matthew), but a "chief tax collector", and he was very "rich".

Christ thus saw Zacchaeus and addressed him with the words that make us think so much.

This aroused joy in Zacchaeus and, at the same time, murmurings among those who evidently did not like these manifestations of the relations of the Master of Nazareth with "tax collectors and sinners".

Above all, it is necessary to dwell on the affirmation that Zacchaeus "did to see Jesus" (Lk 19:3). This is a very important phrase that we must refer to each one of us here present, even more, indirectly, to each one of us. Do I want to "see Christ"? Do I do everything to "be able to see him"? This problem, after two thousand years, is as topical as it was then, when Jesus was passing through the cities and villages of his land" *JPII*

MINISTRIES

A warm welcome to all and a cordial invitation to newcomers to become members of the "St. Malachy Family".

Join one of our many ministries. You will be glad you did in helping us and making new friends.

Mary for Life- (Respect Life Ministry)- For more information call Zoraida at (954)726-1237 ext. 1013.

Children's Rosary- Join us on every 1st Saturday of the month at 6:30 pm. We meet at church after the 5:30 pm mass. Contact Marjorie at 954-254-8416.

Youth Group- Meets every other Friday at 6:30 pm. Contact Ms. Zoraida at 726-1237 ext. 1013.

Legion of Mary (English)- Meets every Saturday at 9:30 am in the little house. For more information please contact Marjorie at (954)254-8416.

Choir- Adult choir practice is in the church before mass. Anyone interested in joining please see Patty at the organ.

English Charismatic Group- Meets every Friday at 7:00 pm in the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament/Conference room (rectory).

Haitian Charismatic Movement

Meets every Tuesday at 7 pm in the Parish Hall.

Knights of Columbus- Meeting are on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday every month at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Contact Jeffrey Rock at 954-974-2949.

Family Ministry-(Christian Life Program)- Meets every Sunday at 5:30 pm at the Parish hall. Contact Elise at 954-549-8240.

Hospitality Ministry- This ministry is for people who want to volunteer their time during Parish activities. Please call Marjorie for more details at (954)254-8416.

Spanish Holy Hour- Meets the second Friday of every month at 7:30 pm at the church.

Spanish Prayer Group- Meets every Thursday at 7:00 pm at the Parish Hall or Church

Lectio Divina in Spanish- Meets every Tuesday at 7:00 pm in the Little House. Contact José at 954-624-2621.

Legion of Mary (Creole) Meets every Thursday at 6:00 pm in the Little House. Contact Dominique at 954-479-9891.

Mass and Adoration (Creole) 1st Thursday of the month / 7 pm.

The Messiah's Story



YOU SPARE ALL THINGS,
BECAUSE THEY ARE YOURS, O
LORD AND LOVER OF SOULS

Wisdom 11:26

Delicious International Menu and drinks available for purchase!

México

- > Tacos de Asada y Barbacoa 3 x \$5
- > Tamales de Pollo 1 x \$3
- > Agua de Horchata \$2
- > Agua de Jamaica \$2

Dominican Republic

- > Cupcake \$2
- > Arroz con Leche \$2
- > Dominican Cake \$3
- > Hot Dog \$3
- > Empanada de Pollo \$2
- > Pollo Asado, Guineo Verde \$10
- > Sancocho con Arroz \$10
- > Espagueti con Salami y Guineo \$10
- > Arroz Chino casero \$10
- > Sopa de Pollo \$10

Venezuela

- > Tequeños \$2
- > Empanadas \$3
- > Perros Calientes \$3
- > Carne con papa, arroz blanco, frijoles negro, maduro y yuca \$10
- > Albondigas con arroz blanco, frijoles negros y yuca \$10
- > Pasta Boloña \$10
- > Paella Valenciana \$12

Puerto Rico

- > Empanadillas \$2
- > Bacalaitos \$2
- > Alcapurrias \$3
- > Arroz dulce con coco \$3
- > Flan de queso \$3
- > Pasteles \$3.50
- > Arroz con gandules pernil \$10
- * con conditos \$12
- * con pastel \$13
- > Guineitos en escabeche \$12
- > Arroz a la jardinera fricase de pollo y platanitos \$11
- > Sancocho, Arroz Blanco \$10

Ecuador

- > Paella \$10
- > Pernil, papa, mote y encebollado \$10
- > Colada morada \$3

El Salvador

- > Pupusas (revueltas, queso, frijoles) \$3e
- > Yuca frita con chicharrón, Berron \$4
- > Elotes locos salvadoreños \$4

Belize

- > Caramel "Dulce de leche" Cake \$4
- > Rice & Beans, Stew Chicken, Plantain, Potatoe Salad \$8

Colombia

- > Empanadas \$2
- > Arroz con Leche \$3
- > Pernil de Cerdo con Arroz Blanco, Maduro \$8
- > Bandeja Paisa \$10
- > Pescado Frito y Ensalada \$10

Haiti

- > Banana (Plantain) Porridge \$7
- > Fried Pork with plantains \$10
- > Fried Chicken with Plantains \$10
- > Haitian Soup \$10
- > Haitian Bouillon \$10
- > Fried Chicken complet \$12
- > Griot Complet \$12

Cuba

- > Media Noche \$8
- > Congrí, Pierna de Puerco, Plátanos maduros, Pan \$10

Philippines

- > Lumpia, Pancit Adobo \$10
- > Biko \$4



Entertainment, Games and Rides for Children and Teens!

On Sat. Oct 29 at 6:00p.m. Religious Themed Costume Contest and Parade (prize of \$50 for winner!)

Food and Music for All!

Friday Oct 28: 5-9 PM
Saturday Oct 29: 12-8 PM
Sunday Oct 30: 12-5 PM

\$1 Coupon valid only with purchase **over \$20** in our **Rummage Sale!** [Remember, you can only use one coupon per purchase].



Baby Bottles Campaign! Mary for Life Ministry

Please bring the bottles back by the weekend of November 5th-6th, 2022. Thank you and God bless you abundantly!

SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER NOVEMBER

Sun 6, Solemn Masses in honor to our Patron St Malachy with the Visit of the statue of the Lord of Miracles.

Because Holiday of Thanksgiving
 Sat 12 Baptismal Prep Class @ 11:00 AM
 Sat 19 Baptisms @ 11 AM.

The dishes you see in this Menu will not be the same for all three days. Come with confidence and enjoy the delicious variety of dishes.

Oct. 30, 2022: Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Forgotten Church: 5 Reasons to Pray for the Souls in Purgatory

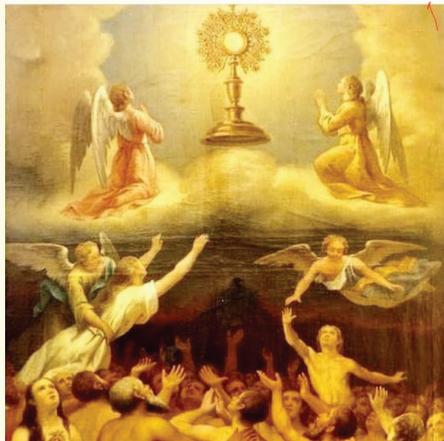
“Purgatory shows God’s great mercy and washes away the defects of those who long to become one with Him”

St. Josemaria Escriva

1. The pain is real - The suffering of purgatory is likened by the saints to burning in a blazing fire. In fact, some saints have even said that the pain of purgatory is not all that different from the suffering of hell. One of the chief sources of the pain is the fact that salvation has been obtained, and yet one cannot immediately enjoy its consolations. This delay of the enjoyment of heaven leads to a spiritual agony of sorts. St. Thomas Aquinas explains it like this:

The more one longs for a thing, the more painful does deprivation of it become. And because after this life, the desire for God, the Supreme Good, is intense in the souls of the just (because this impetus toward him is not hampered by the weight of the body, and that time of enjoyment of the Perfect Good would have come) had there been no obstacle; the soul suffers enormously from the delay.

2. They are our relatives - Many of us have blood relations—grandmothers, aunts and uncles, and parents—who have died and are likely in purgatory. We should be praying for their souls out of love for them. But even if we have no dead relatives that we know of, the souls in purgatory are still our spiritual brothers and sisters. We are related by baptism into Christ, and this familial relationship should spur us to act on



their behalf.

3. You will probably go there - Let’s be honest, most of us are simply not holy enough to bypass purgatory, and the vast majority of us will experience its cleansing fires. If you were suffering intensely, wouldn’t you want someone to offer you relief? Yes, you would. Praying for the Holy Souls, then, is a fulfillment of the Golden Rule given to us by Christ—to do unto others as you would have them do unto you. If you feel an aversion to praying for the poor souls, then simply remember what you would wish if you were in their position.

4. It will bring you joy - Praying for the souls in purgatory is not without its rewards. Can you imagine the joy of meeting brothers and sisters in Christ one day in heaven and realizing that

you helped them with your humble prayers? *“As we enter Heaven we will see them, so many of them coming towards us and thanking us”* Archbishop Fulton Sheen once said, *“We will ask, who they are, and they will say a poor soul you prayed for in Purgatory”*. The small sacrifice of time we made in this life will all be worth it when we see the faces of those who benefited from our prayers.

5. It isn’t that hard - Praying for the souls in purgatory is quite easy, so easy in fact that we have no excuse for not doing it. A prayer for the Holy Souls can be as simple as the short Requiem Aeternam prayer: “Eternal rest, grant unto him/her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him/her. May s/he rest in peace. Amen.” We can also add a brief petition to our daily meal prayer: “Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts... And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.” Why wouldn’t we pray these simple prayers daily?

Two effective ways to pray for the souls in purgatory are praying the Divine Mercy chaplet for them and remembering them in your Rosary intentions.

Even praying these powerful prayers once a week for the Holy Souls isn’t asking that much considering the benefit it brings to your spiritual family members. Finally, one can have a Mass said for the poor souls. Mass stipends are usually \$15, the cost of two coffees at Starbucks. This merciful almsgiving is pleasing to God and hardly burdensome to us.

Let’s clear up some doubts about the Feast of All Saints and the Faithful Departed

What is a saint?

Saint is a “person in heaven (officially canonized or not), who lived heroically virtuous lives, offered their life for others, or were martyred for the faith, and who are worthy of imitation.”

Who is remembered on this day?

When we pray the Apostles’ Creed, we say, “I believe in...the communion of saints.” The communion of saints is made up of men and women who have placed their hope in Jesus Christ and through Baptism, are his adopted sons and daughters. The communion of saints includes the living and the deceased, whether they are with God in heaven or undergoing a process of purification. Before his death, Saint Dominic said, *“Do not weep, for I shall be more useful to you after my death, and I shall help you then more effectively than during my life.”* In a very special way, on the Solemnity of All Saints, not only can we pray to our favorite saints, but we can also call upon our departed brothers

and sisters whom we believe are already with God.

What is the origin of All Saints Day?

The feast that we know of today as “All Saints Day” originated in May 609, when Pope Boniface IV dedicated the Pantheon in Rome to the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III changed the date to November 1 when he dedicated a chapel at the Vatican in honor of all the saints, and Pope Gregory IV later extended this celebration of all saints to the universal church.

Difference between All Saints Day and All Souls’ Day?

All Saints and All Souls comprise the two-day celebration of the Communion of Saints - those who are with God in heaven and those who are on their way to heaven. On the Solemnity of All Saints, November 1, the Church celebrates those Christians who achieved spiritual maturity. It is a day to venerate all the holy men and women who have been

canonized by the Church. A day later, on the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls’ Day), the Church remembers and prays for the faithful departed: our brothers and sisters who have died marked with the sign of faith. Particularly, we pray for all the souls in purgatory.

All Saints Day’s Relation to Halloween

Dressed as Dracula or as devils, neighborhood children have been happily “trick or treating” in the United States and some other countries. But would it surprise you to know that “Halloween” (by that name) started out as a holy Christian celebration?

Hallow, in Old English, means “holy” or “sacred.” Therefore, “Hallows’ Eve,” or “Halloween,” simply means “the evening of holy persons” and refers to the evening before All Saints Day, which is this day, November 1 on Catholic calendar. Halloween is a misguided mixture of Celtic religious ideas that mock the memory of the saints.

¿Quiero yo "ver a Cristo"?

31^o Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario—Ciclo C

Sab 11, 22–12, 2:

Te compadeces, Señor, de todos, porque amas a todos los seres.

Sal 144, 1bc-2. 8-9. 10-11. 13cd-14:

Bendeciré tu nombre por siempre, Dios mío, mi rey.

2 Tes 1, 11–2, 2:

Que Cristo sea glorificado en vosotros, y vosotros en él.

Lc 19, 1-10:

El Hijo del hombre ha venido a buscar y a salvar lo que estaba perdido.

“El fragmento del Evangelio de San Lucas, que la liturgia de hoy propone para meditar en el trigésimo primer domingo durante el año, recuerda el episodio que tuvo lugar, mientras Jesús estaba atravesando la ciudad de Jericó.

Fue un acontecimiento tan significativo que, aunque ya lo sabemos de memoria, es preciso meditar otra vez con atención en cada uno de sus elementos. Zaqueo era no sólo un publicano (igual que lo había sido Leví, después el Apóstol Mateo), sino un "jefe de publicanos", y era muy "rico".

Cuando Jesús pasaba cerca de su casa. Zaqueo, a toda costa, "hacía por ver a Jesús" (Lc 19, 3), y para ello —por ser pequeño de estatura— ese día se subió a un árbol (el Evangelista dice "a un sicómoro"), "para verle" (Lc 19, 4).

Cristo vio de este modo a Zaqueo y se dirigió a él con las palabras que nos hacen pensar tanto.

Efectivamente, Cristo no sólo le dio a entender

que le había visto (a él, jefe de publicanos, por lo tanto, hombre de una cierta posición) sobre el árbol, sino que además manifestó ante todos que quería "hospedarse en su casa" (cf. Lc 19, 5).

Lo que suscitó alegría en Zaqueo y, a la vez, murmuraciones entre aquellos a quienes evidentemente no agradaban estas manifestaciones de las relaciones del Maestro de Nazaret con "los publicanos y pecadores".

Sobre todo, es necesario detenerse en la afirmación de que Zaqueo "hacía por ver a Jesús" (Lc 19, 3). Se trata de una frase muy importante que debemos referir a cada uno de nosotros aquí presentes, más aún, indirectamente, a cada uno de los hombres.

¿Quiero yo "ver a Cristo"? ¿Hago todo para "poder verlo"? Este problema, después de dos mil años, es tan actual como entonces, cuando Jesús atravesaba las ciudades y los poblados de su tierra.

Es el problema actual para cada uno de nosotros personalmente: **¿Quiero?, ¿quiero verdaderamente? O, quizá más bien, ¿vivo el encuentro con El?**

¿Prefiero no verlo o prefiero que El no me vea (al menos a mi modo de pensar y de sentir)? Y si ya lo veo de algún modo, ¿prefiero entonces verlo de lejos, no acercándome demasiado, no poniéndome ante sus ojos para no llamar la atención demasiado..., para no tener que aceptar toda la verdad que hay en El, que proviene de El, de Cristo?"

San Juan Pablo II

Señor, delante de ti,
el mundo entero es como un grano de arena en la balanza,
como gota de rocío mañanero,
que cae sobre la tierra.

Sab 11, 22

San Malaquías: Un santo celoso por la gloria de Dios

Nació en Armagh, Irlanda, en 1094 en la familia O'Morgair, según San Bernardo de la nobleza. Fue bautizado con el nombre de Maelmhaedhoc (latinizado como Malaquías).

Fue educado por Imhar O'Hagan y después por el Abbad Armagh. Fue ordenado sacerdote por St. Cellach (Celsus) en 1119.

Después de su ordenación continuó sus estudios de liturgia y teología en Lismore, San Malchus. En 1123 fue elegido abad de Bangor y un año más tarde fue consagrado obispo de Connor. En 1132, fue elevado a la primacía de Armagh. San Bernardo nos dice que San Malaquías poseía un gran celo por la religión.

Al morir San Celsus, San Malaquías fue nombrado Arzobispo de Armagh en 1132, aunque por su gran humildad le costó aceptarlo. Las intrigas no le per-



mitieron asumir su cargo por dos años. En tres años restauró la disciplina eclesiástica en Armagh.

En 1139 viajó a Roma y en el camino visitó a San Bernardo en Clairvaux. En Roma fue nombrado legado de Irlanda. Regresando vía Clairvaux ob-

tuvo cinco monjes para fundar en Irlanda y fue así que surgió la gran abadía de Mellifont en 1142.

En un segundo viaje a Roma, San Malaquías enfermó llegando a Clairvaux y murió en los brazos de San Bernardo el 2 de noviembre. Se le atribuyen muchos milagros pero por lo que más se le recuerda es por su don de profecía. Entre estas la más famosa es la referente a los papas (ver abajo). Sin embargo no hay certeza de que esta sea auténtica.

Fue canonizado por el Papa Clemente III, el 6 Julio de 1199. Su fiesta se celebra el 3 de noviembre.

ORACIÓN DE SANTA GERTRUDIS LA MAYOR

El Señor le dijo a Santa Gertrudis que cada vez que ella rezara esta oración podría librar 1,000 almas del purgatorio:

"Padre eterno, yo te ofrezco la Preciosísima Sangre de tu Divino Hijo Jesús, en unión con las Misas celebradas hoy día a través del mundo por todas las benditas almas del purgatorio.

Por todos los pecadores del mundo. Por la Iglesia universal, por aquellos en propia casa y dentro de mi familia. Amén."

Relación del Día de Todos los Santos con Halloween

Disfrazados de Drácula o de diablos, niños del vecindario han estado felizmente haciendo el "truco o trato" en los Estados Unidos y en algunos otros países. Pero, ¿le sorprendería saber que "Halloween" (con ese nombre) comenzó como una celebración cristiana sagrada?

Hallow, en inglés antiguo, significa "santo" o "sagrado". Por lo tanto, "Hallows' Eve", o "Halloween", significa simplemente "la noche de las personas santas" y se refiere a la noche anterior al Día de Todos los Santos, que es este día, el 1 de noviembre en el calendario católico. **Halloween es una mezcla errónea de ideas religiosas celtas que se mofan de la memoria de los santos.**

St. Malachy

A saint zealous
for God's glory



Archdiocese of Armagh



This text was extracted from the website of the Archdiocese of Armagh, where St Malachy's is from.

The Church in Ireland in the 12th century was radically changed by a number of reforms. Among the abuses that existed was that whereby the hereditary secularised ecclesiastical dynasty of the Clann Sínaigh had asserted monopoly of clerical office at Armagh for almost 200 years. Two key figures in this reform were Ceallach (St Celsus) comharba Phádraig (1105-1129) and Maolmhaodhóg Ua Morgair (St Malachy).

The turning point for the Armagh reform was the emergence of the reformer Ceallach who belonged to the usurpers, the Clann Sínaigh. Ceallach, Abbot at the Armagh Abbey, took the first step towards canonical correctness by being ordained priest and bishop.

Maolmhaodhóg, whose birthplace in Armagh city is marked by a plaque, was educated by Imhar who was later to become Abbot of the newly founded Abbey of SS Peter and Paul. Ceallach groomed the talented student by ordaining him five years younger than was the norm then and had him act as his vicar during Ceallach's absence. Malachy was trained for a short period in Lismore monastery which had close links with Britain and the continent and thus with the on-going reform movement in Europe initiated by Pope Gregory VII (1073-85).

Malachy was appointed bishop of Down and Connor in 1124 and as Abbot undertook the rebuilding of the illustrious abbey of Bangor. As bishop he began a programme of reform but met with such opposition that he was forced to flee with his monks to Munster.

Before he died in 1129 Ceallach requested that Malachy should be his successor and sent him his crozier. Earlier, having taken the first step to break the hereditary succession of the coarbs of Armagh from within the Clann Sínaigh this singling out a successor outside the family hegemony dealt a death blow to the Clann Sínaigh.

Malachy hesitated to accept the onerous responsibility but after 3 years, on the insistence of the papal legate, Bishop Gilbert of Limerick, and of the bishop of Lismore accepted the appointment. Even so he faced great opposition from the traditionalists in Armagh who elected Muircheartach of the Clann Sínaigh, lay abbot and coarb to succeed Ceallach.

Malachy did not return to Armagh until after Muircheartach's death in 1134 when the support of Cinél Eoghain ensured his superiority over Niall of the Clann Sínaigh as Muircheartach's successor.

With peace now restored and the reform assured Malachy appointed as his own successor in Armagh, Gilla Mac

Liag, abbot of Derry, member of the Cinél Eoghain and a reformer to boot. In the interest of his reform movement Malachy transferred the territory of the present-day Co. Louth, which was then part of Ua Cearbhall's Kingdom of Airghialla, to the diocese of Clogher and appointed his own brother, Gilla Críost, bishop. For the next 60 years the bishops of Clogher styled themselves bishops of Louth.

The diocesan See was moved from Clogher to St Mary's Abbey at Louth and its Augustinian Canons formed the cathedral chapter. In this rather drastic alienation of diocesan territory Malachy was recognising a political fact as well as winning the support of the warrior king, Donnchadh Ua Cearbhaill.

Having returned to Bangor Malachy decided to separate the dioceses of Down and Connor and had another bishop ordained for Connor but himself retained Down. His first act on returning to his former diocese was to re-establish the abbey at Bangor and set about a reform of the community where his earlier reforms came to an abrupt end and led to his flight to Munster.

Though he was no longer bishop of Armagh Malachy was accepted as leader of the reform movement and travelled throughout the country promoting church reform. He realised that his hand would be strengthened considerably in his cherished reforms if the new diocesan arrangements made by the national synod of Rath Breasail in 1111 which decreed there be two archbishoprics for the country - one at Cashel for the southern part of the country and the other at Armagh - were to receive the official recognition and backing of Rome. This would entail travelling to Rome and formally requesting the pallia.

Setting out late 1139 or early 1140 Malachy and his entourage visited the Cistercian abbey at Clairvaux where he first met the abbot, St Bernard. They became firm friends and Malachy was greatly enamoured with the Cistercian way of life. Pope Innocent II received him graciously in Rome but refused to grant him permission to spend the remainder of his life at Clairvaux.

Instead, Innocent appointed him successor to Gilbert, the papal legate for Ireland, confirmed the status of Cashel as an archbishopric but did not confer the pallia on either Armagh or Cashel, but urged that a national synod be held to formally petition the pallia.

On his return journey Malachy and his party called again at Clairvaux and left four of his retinue there to be trained as Cistercians. On his return to Ireland he sent others to Clairvaux. From these two groups, with the addition of Clairvaux monks, Mellifont Abbey near Drogheda was founded in

1142. Malachy also visited the monastery at Arrouaise in Flanders whence he introduced the Augustinian Canons into Ireland at St Mary's Abbey, Louth, also in 1142. Both Mellifont and Louth Abbey were situated in the Kingdom of Airghialla, the protection and patronage of whose king, Donnchadh Ua Cearbhaill, enabled Malachy to introduce these continental monastic observances.

As papal legate he spent the next six years holding synods, making new church laws and generally renewing the life of the Church in Ireland. In 1145 a former Clairvaux monk was elected Pope - Eugene III - and Malachy thought it was now opportune for him to again request the pallia. In 1148, availing of the fact that the Pope had summoned a church council at Reims, Malachy undertook a second journey to the continent, having first convened a synod near Skerries for the purpose of making a formal request for the pallia.

On his journey to France he was prevented, by King Stephen of England, from crossing the English Channel immediately because of the latter's dispute with the papacy and by the time he reached France the Pope was on his way back to Rome. Malachy now decided to visit St Bernard at Clairvaux again, arriving there mid-October.

A few days later he was prostrated with a fever but the monks were not unduly alarmed even though Malachy insisted he was on his death-bed and asked for the last rites. He became suddenly critically ill on All Saints Day and in the presence of the assembled community and, in the arms of St Bernard, died on All Souls Day, 1148.

The monks of Clairvaux initiated proceedings for his canonisation, which Pope Clement III confirmed in 1190. St Bernard's biography of Malachy, as well as letters written to him during his lifetime, are the most important sources for his life.

The bones of St Malachy remained in France until in 1982 for the most recent renovation of St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, the return of a portion of his remains was negotiated and part of which was placed in the new altar during the ceremony of rededication. And so the mortal remains of two of Armagh's most celebrated archbishops to follow Patrick, one of whom, Malachy, guided the Church in Ireland through the tensions of reform and the other, Oliver Plunkett, through the rigours of persecution, to the scene of their labours for peace in Armagh.

St Malachy's feast day is celebrated on All Souls Day.

Dermot McDermott, CFC.

<https://www.armagharchdiocese.org/stmalachy/>

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