

Msgr. Bill's Weekly Letter...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I believe that all of us want to be a saint in the fullness of heaven. Fr. Ed Broom, OMV wrote an article entitled, *10 Important Aspects of Saintliness*, in Catholic Exchange. The full article makes several good points. I check out this site every couple days (<https://catholicexchange.com>). I invite you to check it out.

1. **Antithesis of Saintliness** — Sin — Let us start with the negative. Saints truly detest the one major evil in the world—the reality of sin. The motto of Saint Dominic Savio for his First Holy Communion was the following immortal assertion: *Death Rather Than Sin!*
2. **Prayer** — It is absolutely impossible to come across or read the life of any saint who did not take his prayer life seriously and spend sizable blocks of time dedicated to prayer, which is union and friendship with God.
3. **Humility** — Saints are truly humble. By humility we mean the following: saints attribute all the good they have done to God who is the origin, author and end of all good. When complimented on any good done, almost spontaneously the saint responds: *Thanks be to God!*
4. **Hunger for Holiness** — Authentic saints have a real hunger and thirst for exactly that—holiness, to become a saint. ... Many yearn for money, power, pleasure, success and possessions. Not so for the saint: he yearns to love God fully and totally and unreservedly; he longs to be the saint that God has called him to be!
5. **Charity** — The saint is motivated to assimilate and to carry out in word and deed the greatest of all the Commandments—the command to love both God and neighbor. ... Saint John of the Cross asserted: *"In the twilight of our existence we will be judged on love."* Saint Francis de Sales adds to this in these words: *"The measure with which we should love God is to love Him without measure."*
6. **Zeal for the Salvation of Souls** — Two saints met, one a youngster, the other a priest. The youngster looked up and saw on the wall a few words written in Latin and he asked the priest what the words were and what they meant. The priest responded by saying that those words were his motto and they were: *"Give me souls and take all the rest away."* The priest was Saint John Bosco; the youngster was Saint Dominic Savio.
7. **Struggling Sinners Who Rise When They Fall** — ... Saints are born sinners. ... Venerable Fulton J. Sheen reminds us that the first canonized saint was a murderer, an insurrectionist, and a thief who hung on a cross next to Jesus on Calvary. "Jesus said: 'Truly I tell you, this day you will be with me in Paradise.'" (Lk. 23:43) As Sheen points out: "And he died a thief because he stole heaven."
8. **Fervent Love for the Source of All Holiness** — The Holy Eucharist — The ultimate source of grace, purity, strength and holiness is Jesus Himself. The most efficacious means by which we unite ourselves with Jesus in His Mystical Body is through the Sacraments.
9. **Open and Docile to the Holy Spirit** — ... The Holy Spirit speaks gently but insistently to humble and docile souls, guiding them in the proper course of action that leads to holiness of life, that leads them to become the saints that we are all called and destined to become. ... Pope Saint John XXIII stated: *"The saints are the masterpieces of the Holy Spirit."*
10. **Mary and the Saints** — After he died, Saint Dominic Savio appeared bathed in heavenly glory to Saint John Bosco and told the holy priest what gave him the greatest joy in his short life on earth. It was precisely this: his great love and confidence in the Blessed Virgin Mary. Saint Dominic ended this encounter with Saint John Bosco exhorting him to spread devotion to Mary to the greatest extent possible.

In this Easter season we have an opportunity to focus on our final end, the fullness of the beatific face of God for all eternity. The worst thing that can happen to you or me is not to become a saint. Let's help each other achieve, with grace, our destiny

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