

Pastor's Thoughts

The Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 06, 2022

The Communion of Saints: Partners in the Gospel

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ & Friends of St. John Vianney:



Over the course of your life, whether you are young or old, have you spent much time learning about the lives of the saints? Do you know much about your baptismal or confirmation patron saint? It's my sense that we don't know the saints all that well. Yet, they are holy heroes and heroines of faith whom we can learn from, be inspired by, and pray to for their heavenly intercession. There are more than 10,000 recognized saints in the Roman Catholic Church. Pope Francis holds the record for canonizing more than 911 of them. How many of the 10,000 can you name?

A fun and enlightening exercise that I've suggested before and which I would encourage you to do sometime this week is

to: Create your own litany of saints. With pen and paper, write down all of the saints you can name. Then throughout November, pray with that list. Call upon the saints in your litany for their intercession to help you learn more about them. Then, for the rest of the month pick *at least* one or two from your list and learn about them. I'm excited to do this exercise and have started out this month reading about one of my favorites... St. Padre Pio.

The image above is a photograph of a Bavarian wood carving, depicting saints of healing known as the Fourteen Holy Helpers. This beautiful carving is located at St. Peter Mission in Suquamish, Washington where I was pastor, and where Chief Seattle (a devout Catholic) is buried in the Mission's graveyard. The Fourteen Holy Helpers are saints to whom healing miracles are attributed. During the plagues of the Middle Ages, these saints were popularized for their assistance combating disease and illness. Symbols or objects are often associated with the saints in sacred art. For instance, St. Blaise is often shown holding two candles used for blessing throats on his feast day (Feb. 3rd) the day after the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, or Candlemas, when candles are blessed. St. Blaise, bishop and martyr is one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers. Can you pick him out in this photo?

www.formed.org is an excellent online resource for learning more about the saints. "Formed" has numerous full-length movies, audio books, e-books, documentaries and other programs about the saints that you can access online. But, in addition to this streaming 'online' resource, there's nothing like reading a good book or a short biography about a saint. Our parish library in the Social Hall has several excellent books on the lives of the saints. I encourage you to check out a book from our library. Throughout this month, I will be including in *Pastor's Thoughts* each week, something about the saints...especially why and how they are important for our lives. I hope you will join me in November and make time to get to know the saints.

May God be with you. His joy. His peace. His love.

Fr. David

Positivity, Relator, Futuristic, Developer, Empathy

Personal Religious Faith Demands Engagement!