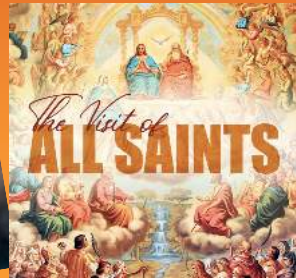
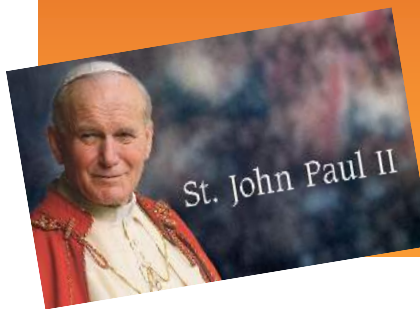


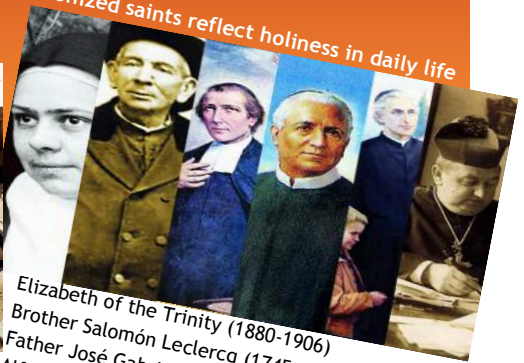
# Me, a Saint?



Teaching Your Children about Catholic Saints



Newly canonized saints reflect holiness in daily life



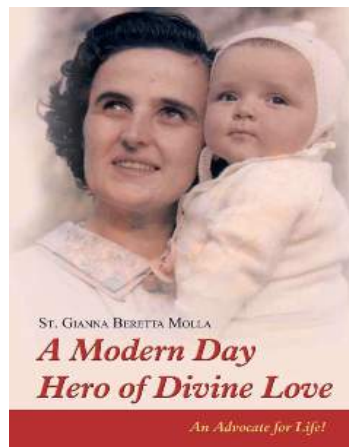
Elizabeth of the Trinity (1880-1906)  
Brother Salomón Leclercq (1745-1792)  
Father José Gabriel Brochero (1840-1914)  
Alfonso María Fusco (1839-1910)  
Ludovico Pavoni (1784-1849)  
Bishop Manuel González García (1877-1940)

## Called to be Saints – Possible?

“To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, **called to be saints**, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours” (1 Corinthians 1:2) “Be holy, because I am holy” (1 Peter 1:16)

## When was the last time we thought about what happens after we die?

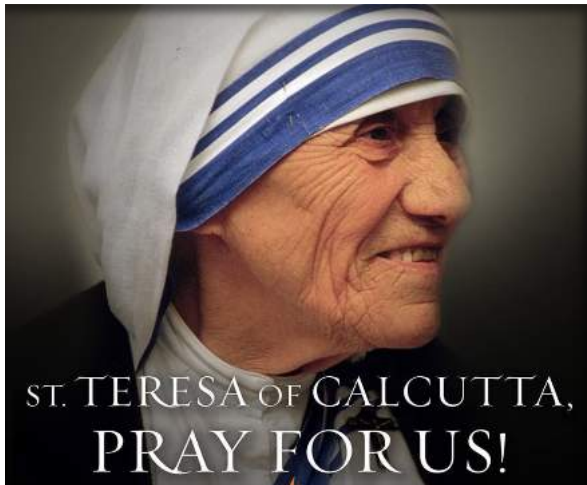
Certainly, we already *know* what happens. We learned it in Catechism class: first comes death, unavoidable for all of us, then comes judgment, and depending on how that goes, either hell, purgatory, or heaven. We know that. God has revealed it to us, and the Church teaches it clearly and authoritatively. But when was the last time we really *thought* about it? After all, if God has revealed it, He must have a good reason. Thinking about these eternal truths must be able to have a positive influence on how we live our daily lives here on earth. Otherwise, God wouldn't have made such a big deal about them. But he did. Why?



## All Saints Day Assignment

Google and read about the newly canonized saints above and discover the richness of their lives. Sainthood is achievable for all through the grace of God

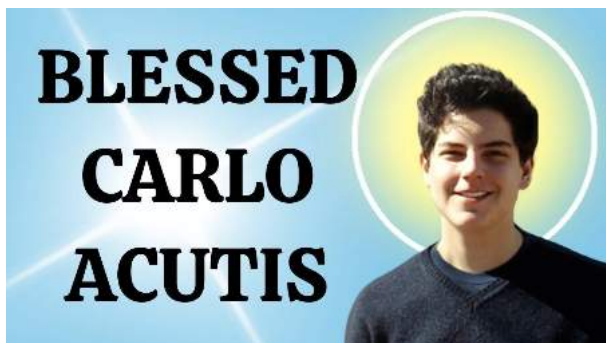
**What is a Saint?** The saints are followers of Christ who lived lives of holiness on earth and now share in eternal life with God in Heaven. When we look at the lives of the saints, we see examples of how to live as disciples of Christ. We celebrate the saints in a special way during the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. The saints can be a source of information and inspiration for modern Catholics to emulate.



Today we celebrate All Saints Day. We honour and remember the saints who have made it to heaven. Some of us have special devotion to certain saints. We may be tempted to think that all the saints lived holy lives since birth. However, we also know of saints who were once rascals, flamboyant and who once lived sinful lives. One 'famous' saint who turned from being a sinner to a great saint is St. Augustine. All of us, like the saints who have gone before us, are called to a life of holiness.

### Our Call to Sainthood

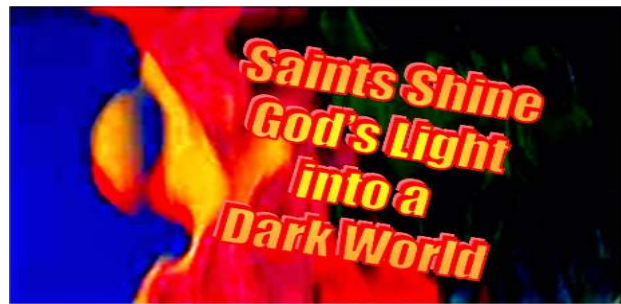
Just like Saint John Paul II, Saint Teresa of Calcutta, and Saints Francisco and Jacinta, we too are called to live lives of holiness. Like Saint John Paul II, we can proclaim the Word of God to others. Like Saint Teresa of Calcutta, we can be of service to others, especially those who are hungry or sick. Francisco and Jacinta show us that children can become saints. Looking to modern and contemporary saints is a great way to begin the journey.



Don't fall victim to the myth of the cookie-cutter saints. There are no boxes to check on the quest to heaven except one: Love God – "then do as you please" (St. Augustine).

Lord, help me through the power of your Holy Spirit to live a holy life and to develop the characteristics of humility, love, tolerance, discipline, peace and faithfulness

Each person has a unique path to sainthood. There is no mould. There is no yellow-brick road to follow. There is only us and God's distinct plan for our life. The only prerequisite we must meet is love for the Lord. Look at St. Joseph. He was a carpenter, a father, and a man with zero direct quotes in the Bible. And yet, he serves as an exemplary model of holiness because of the dignity he brought to his work, however "insignificant" it may have seemed. In fact, there are saints in all fields. Some saints gave up all they had to follow God in drastic acts of holiness. Some died heroic deaths, wrote incredible works, or changed the course of history. But others, though equally committed, served as unsung heroes, as "ordinary" mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, teachers, and more. In fact, so many have slipped under the radar and have yet to be recognized by the Church as canonized Saints. The point is, God is calling us to sanctity wherever we are, doing whatever we love. Whether we are athletes, musicians, artists, clerks, mechanics, teachers, lawyers, members of the military, or ministers, the list could go on. God wants to use us. And He wants to use our interests and passions for His glory. In fact, perhaps He is calling us to be a sister, a priest, a theologian, or a hermit. But even if He is not, we have the chance to be a saint in our daily decisions to live for Christ, whatever that may look like.



## Serve the Lord in a life of Holiness

### Characteristics of a life of holiness

- **Humility**  
Jesus tells them not to compete to be number one. It is always a temptation to compare. Envy and rivalry are great dangers. Jesus says if you are going to compete it should be to get the last place. If anyone wants to be first, they 'must be the very last, and the servant of all' (Mark 9:35). Leaders are called to humble service.
- **Love**  
Jesus took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me" (Mark 9:36-37). Love and welcome everyone, even those who are unable to do anything for us – the very young, the weak, the poor – in doing so we are loving and welcoming Jesus.
- **Tolerance**  
Jesus tells the disciples not to dismiss or judge others who do things 'in Jesus' name' just because they are not part of our group (Mark 9: 38-41) or do things in a different manner to how we do them. It is a mistake to dismiss other Christians, other denominations or other ministries or organisations because they are not 'one of us'.
- **Discipline**  
We sometimes tolerate sin in our own lives but are intolerant towards other people's sin. Jesus teaches us to be tolerant towards others, but intolerant about sin in our own lives (Mark 9:42-49).

In the words of Saint Teresa of Calcutta, “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”

Choose to model Christ through the circumstances God has put in place in our life, and the gifts and talents we devote time to each day. God doesn't want us to ditch our love for rapping, or skateboarding, or dancing, or surfing the internet, whatever it is that brings us joy. He wants to use it. He wants to use what we love to glorify Him. **Our regular acts can speak volumes when done with extraordinary love. Our world is in desperate need of saints who understand what it's like to be a Christian in modern times. Whatever we have, God is more than willing to use and to multiply. The Church and the world, needs you, future saints.**

- **Peace**

Jesus tells them not to argue but to be at peace. Jesus longed for his disciples to get along with one another, to stop arguing and to 'be at peace with each other' (Mark 9:50). Later, Jesus prayed that we may be one in order that the world would believe (John 17:21).

- **Faithfulness**

Jesus calls us to faithfulness in marriage. He points out that Moses' permission of divorce was a concession and not a command. God's intention for marriage is life-long faithfulness. Husband and wife are so closely united that they become one flesh: 'So they are no longer two, but one flesh' (Mark 10:8). This is the origin of the wonderful words in the marriage service, which follow the joining of hands and the exchange of vows: 'Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate' (Mark 10:9).

**How can we live a holy life when the world around is unholy? What is living a holy life like?**

1. A life that is pleasing to God. Do you desire to please Him? Then you must be holy and you must have a testimony like that of Enoch (Hebrews 11:5).
2. A life of going on with God. A life of progress. How many people are born again, have the assurance of sins forgiven, but they never seem to grow in grace! Are you going on with the Lord and growing? “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18)
3. A life of clear-cut separation from evil. We are exhorted to avoid sexual immorality, lust, a Christian should not wrong his brother or take advantage of him and we are solemnly called to cut out every form of impurity. Because God calls us to a life of purity, we must do something about it. (2 Corinthians 7:1).
4. A life where the body is kept under control. Have we presented our bodies to the Lord for Him to give us the mastery over them (Romans 12:1, Romans 6:13).
5. A life that is transformed. God calls us to live an entirely new life, a holy life (Romans 6:4).
6. It is a love-filled life. To be holy is to be healthy, and the secret of spiritual health is love (Romans 5:8).
7. It is a life of absolute honesty. No one can say that this is not practical holiness in action, becoming more and more like Christ.

Fr. Andrew Wong, Spiritual Director & Veronica Nathan, Programme Manager/ Counsellor