Bringing Home the Word

All Saints
November 1, 2026

Who Wants to Be a Saint?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

This question can be understood in two very different ways. On the one hand, it asks: *Who might step forward to accomplish this feat?* On the other hand, it wonders: *Who wants to bother putting forth the effort?* Perhaps we have read too much about the lives of the saints to want to be one of them. So often, those stories describe extraordinary feats of physical punishment. But anyone who thinks that such abuse is what makes a saint should listen to St. Irenaeus of Lyons. He insists, "The glory of God is man [Christ] fully alive." Sainthood is allowing the sanctifying grace of God to dwell habitually in us and make us like he who is fully alive—Jesus Christ. However, what does "fully alive" really mean?

To be fully alive means to be people of faith; to have deep principles and to live by them, regardless of the cost. It means to realize that we are part of the wondrous creation of nature and that we must respect our place in it and our responsibilities for it. It means to care for others as well as for ourselves. All of this is grounded in faith in God, who loves us enough to make us and who made us to be fully alive. However, it is not always easy to live this out, and that is where the struggle comes in. We don't have to create struggle; life will do that for us. Still, to be fully alive is well worth the price we might be asked to pay. Isn't it? ✝

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Sunday Readings

Revelation 7:2–4, 9–14

These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress.

1 John 3:1–3

Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure, as he is pure.

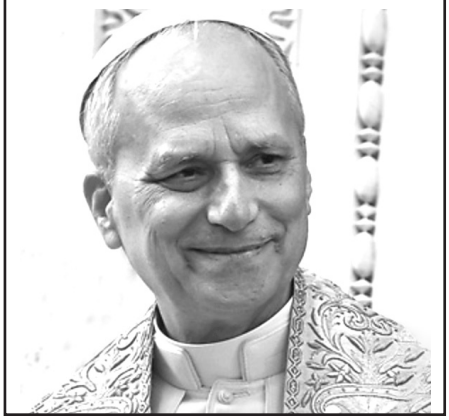
Matthew 5:1–12a

[Jesus said,] "Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

A Word from Pope Leo XIV

The mystery of the communion of saints…reminds us of the final destiny of humanity: a great celebration in which we rejoice together…admiring the multifaceted beauty of faces, all different and all resembling the face of Christ.… How this contrasts with the tragedies that the human family is suffering because of injustice and war.

ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 1, 2025



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What challenges do my circumstances present?
- What prevents me from standing up for principles?

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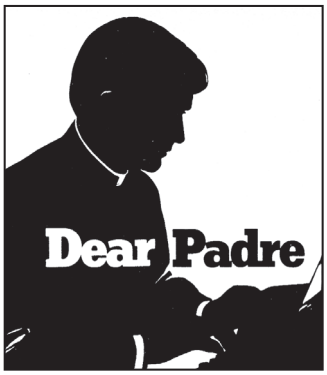

Dear Padre,
I exercise my civic duty to vote. How should my Catholic faith inform my voting choices?

For Catholic voters, the selection of candidates and the policies they may enact is best exercised within the sanctity of a well-formed conscience.

The Catholic approach to faithful citizenship relies on moral principles found in Scripture and on four major principles of Catholic moral and social teaching that don't "easily fit ideologies of 'right' or 'left,' 'liberal' or 'conservative,' or the platform of any political party" (*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 55). These four principles include the life and dignity of the human person (the sacred nature of all human life, from conception to natural death); subsidiarity (the family as the basic unit of human society); the common good (the protection of basic human rights and social conditions for all, as well as a duty to care for God's creation); and global solidarity (especially a preferential option for the poor).

Because the Church cannot compromise these basic principles or moral teachings, our cause is the defense of human life and dignity and the protection of the weak and vulnerable—not a particular party or candidate (*FCFC* 58).

Moreover, the faith-filled voter is urged to choose candidates who not only integrate the tenets of Catholic social teaching, but who also reject intrinsically evil acts. According to St. John Paul II, those acts include "any kind of homicide, genocide, abortion, euthanasia, and voluntary suicide; whatever violates the integrity of the human person…whatever is offensive to human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, and trafficking in women and children" (*Veritatis Splendor*, 80). ✝

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Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to ***DearPadre.org*** to send your question and to learn more about ***Dear Padre***.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From *Communion of Saints: Key to the Eucharist* by William H. Shannon

How appropriate it is for us to be aware that when we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, many more are present and active than mortal vision is able to see. It is worth noting too that it is not they who join us, but we who join them. The saints and we are related as friends, especially friends around the altar, but also friends in carrying on the unfinished tasks they left to us.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. For more information, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

PRAYER

Lord, I am grateful for your life of humble service. Give me a humble, willing heart to serve the needs of your people.

From *Grateful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeny

WEEKDAY READINGS

November 2–7

Monday, Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls), Wis 3:1–9 / Rom 6:3–9 / Jn 6:37–40

Tuesday, Weekday, Phil 2:5–11 / Lk 14:15–24

Wednesday, St. Charles Borromeo, Phil 2:12–18 / Lk 14:25–33

Thursday, Weekday, Phil 3:3–8a / Lk 15:1–10

Friday, Weekday, Phil 3:17—4:1 / Lk 16:1–8

Saturday, Weekday, Phil 4:10–19 / Lk 16:9–15

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