

November 1: All Saints



For the past three years JustPeace, the monthly newsletter, contained a reflection on a saint of the month. [Saints Alive!](#) highlighted the embodiment of Catholic social teaching in these saints and applied his or her patronal quality to current events.

Saints play an important role in our Catholic faith. We profess our belief in them in the Apostle's Creed: "I believe in ... the communion of saints."

The communion of saints is the spiritual solidarity which binds together the faithful on earth, the souls in purgatory, and the saints in heaven.

The communion of saints is the Church (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 946), one that comes together in our common experience of the Eucharist, where all are welcome: brothers and sisters and the Holy Trinity. We are called to build community.

November 1 is All Saints' Day. How many saints has the Church canonized? All Saints' Day honors the Church's canonized saints and the countless saints who aren't formally canonized.

On All Saints Day, we remember all those who have lived lives of heroic holiness. Canonized or not, our Father in heaven knows what lies in our hearts, and who is rightfully called "saint."

Archbishop Vlazny has said that all saints were once sinners.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, "Saints are only sinners who keep trying."

Therein lies what makes saints especially attractive: saints were once just like you and me: sinners. What eventually separates saints from most of us is that they continued to try, continued to listen to the Holy Spirit, and continued to hurdle earthly obstacles and move towards God.

All Saints Day is our celebration of the good and holy people who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. This includes those whose "unpublicized holiness" has inspired us. Sinners who kept on trying.



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