

November 1, 2020

All Saints (A)
Rv 7:2-4, 9-14
1 Jn 3:1-3
Mt 5:1-12a

Who Wants to Be a Saint?

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 many of the wrong "lives of the saints" to want to be one of them. So often those stories describe extraordinary feats of physical punishment. 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?

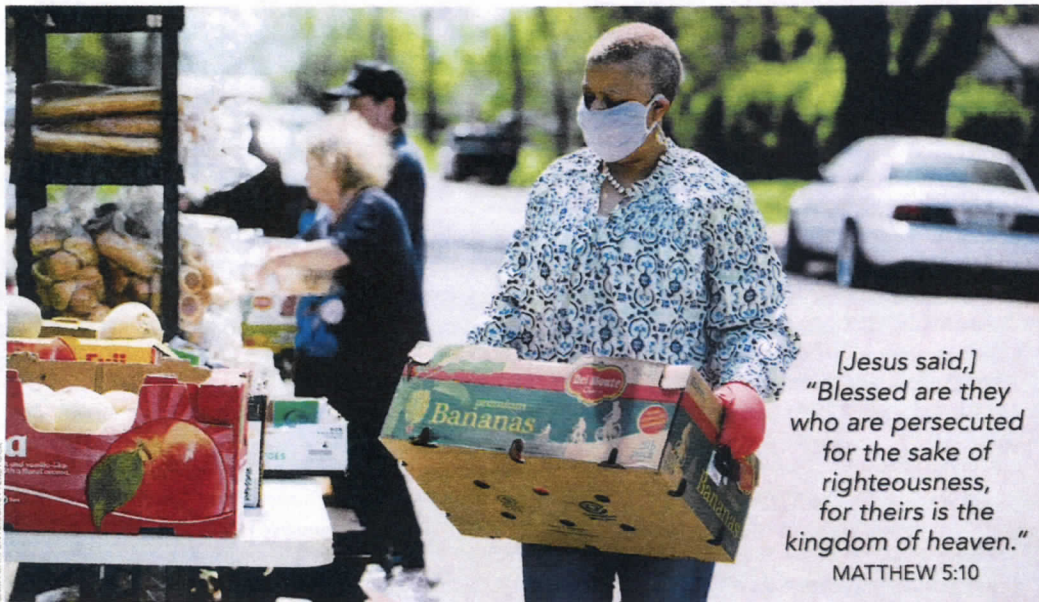
To be fully alive means to be people of faith; to have deep principles and to live by them, regardless of the cost. It means to realize that we are part of the

wondrous creation of nature, and 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. Here 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?

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- What challenges do your life circumstances present to you?
- What prevents you from standing up for principle in those circumstances?



[Jesus said,]
"Blessed are they
who are persecuted
for the sake of
righteousness,
for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven."
MATTHEW 5:10

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 are 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 (all human life is sacred, from conception to natural death); subsidiarity (the family as the basic unit of human society); the common good (protecting basic human rights and social conditions for all, and 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).

—Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR
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A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Christians are called to promote political dialogue, especially where it is threatened and where conflict seems to prevail. Christians are called to restore dignity to politics and to view politics as a lofty service to the common good, not a platform for power....To be a leader demands thoughtfulness, training, and experience.

—ADDRESS TO BISHOPS' CONFERENCES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, OCTOBER 28, 2017



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Calendar

Monday

NOVEMBER 2
All the Faithful Departed
 (All Souls' Day)
 Wis 3:1-9
 Rom 5:5-11
 Jn 6:37-40

Tuesday

NOVEMBER 3
Weekday
 Phil 2:5-11
 Lk 14:15-24

Wednesday

NOVEMBER 4
St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop
 Phil 2:12-18
 Lk 14:25-33

Thursday

NOVEMBER 5
Weekday
 Phil 3:3-8a
 Lk 15:1-10

Friday

NOVEMBER 6
Weekday
 Phil 3:17-4:1
 Lk 16:1-8

Saturday

NOVEMBER 7
Weekday
 Phil 4:10-19
 Lk 16:9-15

Sunday

NOVEMBER 8
Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Wis 6:12-16
 1 Thes 4:13-18
 or 4:13-14
 Mt 25:1-13

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