



November 1, 2009
All Saints Day

Dear Friends,

I hope you looked around St. Anne's parish large worship space and enjoyed the lives of the 16 SAINTS surrounding you. Thank you to Bob Sanocki who loves the saints and provided our visual images along with a short story about each saint. Do you have a special saint? Have you shared his/her life story with anyone lately? This is the month to share that good news!

Our world-wide Church is celebrating the great feast of ALL SAINTS today! As Catholics, we believe that the saints have a role in our lives. The saints are continually praying for us and interceding on our behalf. This is because God is the God of the living, not of the dead. As such, asking a saint for intercession is similar to asking a friend to pray for you. Because the saint has lived a holy life we ask for his/her guidance to lead us closer to God.

In my family, we pray to St. Anthony, patron saint of lost and found; to St. Joseph, patron saint of fathers; to St. Ann, patron saint of finding a husband; to St. Jude, patron saint of the impossible; to St. Christopher, patron saint of travelers; to St. Don Bosco, patron saint of young boys; to St. Francis, patron saint of animals and creation and many more.

St. Anthony always helps my family find our lost items; St. Joseph has given us the best fathers we could ask for; St. Ann has guided the girls in our family to great spouses! Actually, my Dad died several years ago, and I always ask him to find me a parking space when I'm driving, and you know what? He always does. Now, some of my friends are asking him for parking spaces too ... and finding one! Belief or faith in the Communion of Saints ... in heaven and on earth ... working together ... this is what our faith teaches.

Look around our church now at photos of our deceased family members and friends adorning the Day of the Dead altars. Their lives are blessings to us also. Today's gospel invites us to become Beatitude people! They were just that!

The Beatitudes are a dynamic guide to living fully and to true happiness! They are powerful and challenging. When we truly mourn, is that because we have truly loved? If we are poor in spirit, it's usually because we have poured out our hearts for another, and it is often at that moment when we realize that we need others, especially the Lord.

The **New Law** focuses not just on our actions but **what is in our hearts. The Beatitudes are the key to human happiness.** Try each one on for size. We may have to wiggle a little bit (out of our comfort zone) to really have the Beatitudes become our clothing. Join the saints on earth! "Let all the saints come marching in."

Happy All Saints Day! Happy All Souls Day!

In Jesus and Mary,

Sister Barbara, OSJM