

ALL SAINTS DAY- *Living the holiness in Daily Life*

During the year, the church celebrates many saints, day after day. But today we celebrate all of them together. Why? Other than the saints who are already known and officially proclaimed by the church, there are many who lived a holy life and joined heaven.

Today's Solemnity celebration reminds us that there are countless saints, many of them unknown to us, who have walked the path of beatitudes, and achieved the goal of blessedness. They now intercede for us, showing us the way ahead, they successfully walked, and stay as our examples and models in holiness.

Oct. 26, 4 days back Vatican approves the process of beatification of 34 villagers in Kandamal, Odisha State in India, martyred for faith in 2008. Many of them did not have many centuries of Christian faith/traditions.

Thomas Merton, the monk mystic: he became a Catholic in 1930. One of his good friends, who was a Jewish man once asked him: 'Now that you are a catholic, what is your goal?'. Well, I should be a good Catholic, replied Merton. His Jewish friend said: That is not enough; you should want to be a saint".

-God made you and me to be a saint. God will give whatever you need, to be that way. We just need to listen to God and let God act in us. After all, *holiness is primarily what God is doing within you*. You need not be great or successful, but just need to be faithful. Paul reminds us: "This is the will of God: your sanctification" (1Thes 4.3)

Challenging, as these moments can be, they are also the most fulfilling, and go far beyond the fleeting moments of joy that comes from worldly success or triumph, which typically make you feeling hollow afterwards. This is really God's indication, written in our human nature, that only in losing ourselves for the sake of Jesus Christ, do we really find true life and happiness.

What is the good life that God intends for us? And how is it related to the ultimate end of life? Is it not our desire for true happiness? Jesus is addressing these questions in his sermon on the mount: the beatitudes -the central theme of Jesus preaching. 16th C. Pope: "*The beatitude*" is the interior biography of Jesus".

They describe his life, and mark out for us, the path of discipleship, in following him completely. Surprisingly, the path that is stretched out in Beatitudes, is not merely theoretical one, but one that resonates with our lived experience, the deepest desires of our heart.

The heart of beatitudes is that we can live a happy life! The call to holiness, to be saints who joyfully follow God's will can be found in them. This is central to Jesus teaching? Bcs, it responds to the *natural desire for happiness that God has placed in every human heart*. It also confronts us with decisive choices concerning the life to follow on earth and the use we make of God's grace for us.

What if the holiness in ordinary life? St. Theresa's little ways: *a bit of faithfulness in all what we are asked to do in our state of life*; love of God-his glory. Sis & Bro, the beatitudes are the path to Happiness and holiness, because they are path to following Jesus, who is the way-the truth-the life.

As you learn more about the lives of a saints, you may be inspired by their holiness, and can choose your favorite, and see how God want you to grow in holiness: bcs your saint inspires a desire for greater holiness. God is calling you to occupy a unique place of your own in this company of saints. Therefore, let us try to walk the road, the challenging, but the only road to authentic happiness in this life and the next.

Is it not true for each of us, that the moment in our life that we are most proud of, or found most fulfilling – are precisely the moments when we were able to assist another person in need or crisis, or in doing works of mercy, peace and justice; or to sacrifice ourselves in some way for the sake of the love of God? **Pope Benedict XVI** said: “we look at the shining examples of saints, and we re-awaken within us, the deepest desire we have, and the saints help us to find that out, and walk the way”.

WE Christians do not worship saints, we venerate them. We worship God alone. We venerate saints, bcs, they are venerable; examples of holiness achieved, through ordinary and extraordinary ways. As we venerate them recalling their stories, celebrating their presence, it helps us be energized to walk in God's ways; we want to be like them to grow in holiness and spiritual life.

May all saints intercede for us. May God make you and me, a saint. Amen.