

“Be holy as I am Holy” = Call to Holiness/ All Saints 2025

What is holiness? How can we live a holy life? Today’s readings/Beatitude Solemnity of All Saints is all about thinking about heaven, because we need to be saints to go to heaven, which we all want.

“Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy” (*Lev.19:2*) God has made every person for a life of holiness; to be with him in heaven. This is the one and only purpose of our life. Sounds cool! One must be holy, and nothing unholy can enter heaven, How is this possible?

“For this is the will of God; your holiness” (1Thes 4:3). All are called to the fulness of Christian life, and perfection of charity” (LG). Means, all the faithful are invited to reach perfection in the state of their life.

Remember! *‘perfection is not a -trifle’, but trifles make perfection’.*

Theodora, the sister of St. Thomas Aquinas asked him at his death bed: “how can I achieve holiness of life”? He replied in two words: “Desire it” “Will it”; choose it, seek it, pursue it. – really and truly, day by day. No matter whatever obstacles come along the way, deliberately choose it.

What does it mean to be holy, essentially?

-To be founder of religious order -Loyola, M. Teresa/ having visions and apparitions: Faustina/Teresa Avila/Margaret Mary?

-performing miracles, bi-location-Don Bosco -stigmata- P. Pio. St Francis/

We know that these are all *extraordinary mystical phenomena* that the Lord sometimes allows to manifest a particular person’s holiness. But they are not necessary or not essential to holiness. Rather, *‘the essential’ to holiness is simply “doing God’s will, according to one’s state of life, one’s vocation; faithfully fulfilling one’s daily duties; no matter how ordinary, insignificant or simple it might be. [there is a heroic virtue in this]*

St. Therese' of Lisieux wisely counsels us in the most simple way: "If you want to be holy, it will not be hard; keep only one end in view- always do everything in order to please Jesus". Her secret to holiness can be summarized in few words: '*do little things with great love*'. M. Theresa of Calcutta often reminded us of the same! This is our journey to holiness. For Carlo Acutis, millennial saint-Oct.7-"Euch. Is my highway to heaven"

- having a happy and grateful heart to God, unfailing trust in Him
- sticking to a small schedule of prayer, every day.
- waking up and going to bed in a consistent way
- eating and drinking in a temperate way, consistently
- doing work/ homework diligently without complaining
- speaking to others kindly, and never uncharitably
- using various forms of social media, prudently and responsibly, not wasting so much time on it, but using it 'wisely'
- bearing sickness, aches, pains, and inconvenience, patiently, offering it

This list of so many little things can go on and on – the things of daily life, that need to be 'sanctified', connecting it to the Lord, doing it for his love, that make us holy.

This little way is within the reach of everyone, to be in friendship with Jesus. There can be no excuses for anyone of us, not to reach this holiness of life. Finally, you may not be a *beautiful temple of God*- but like a cracked clay pot: but know that, what makes you holy is not your own goodness; It is Jesus himself, helping you every day, to be perfect, as He is perfect. He looks into your heart, and see what you wish: All that you need to do is: 'desire it, choose it, pursue it'.. that's your holiness. Amen!