

My Father's House

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The Saints and Ourselves

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The Communion of Saints

The Catholic Church has always taught that there is a communion of saints comprised of three groups: the Church Militant on earth, the Church Suffering in Purgatory, the Church Triumphant in Heaven. The Church has always taught that there is an inter-communion between the three groups, in such a way that the saints in Heaven can help us on earth, and we on earth can help the saints in Purgatory.

In the Preface for the Apostles, it states, "From their place in Heaven, they (the apostles) guide us still." Anne, the Visionary from Ireland, stated that she was invited to attend a grand council in Heaven where the apostles and other saints were deciding with Jesus the events upon earth. Catholics have long believed that St. Therese the Little Flower, would spend her Heaven doing good upon earth by sending roses in answer to faithful prayer; that Padre Pio still helps his spiritual children here on earth; that St. Anthony helps the faithful find lost objects; and that St. Jude helps them in impossible circumstances. In so many ways, the saints help us here on earth in the practical details of our spiritual and earthly lives. For example ...

In Regard to Prayer

St. Catherine of Siena taught us that prayer is reciprocal conversation, and that we must learn to listen. St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross teach us the beauty of contemplative prayer. And St. Albert the Great taught us the beauty of praying the Scriptures. And Mother Teresa taught us that we must make Holy Hours so that we listen to, discern and obey the voice of the Master. She stated, "It is not possible to engage in the direct apostolate without becoming a soul of prayer. We must be aware of oneness in Christ as He was aware of oneness with His Father. Christ must be able to live His life in us and through us."

In Regard to Total Consecration

John Claude Caussaude taught us to abandon ourselves completely to Divine Providence. Brother Lawrence taught us to find Christ in the moment. Both stress that every moment has been prearranged for us by an all-loving Father, who has a beautiful plan to share Trinitarian life with us, His children.

In Regard to the Eucharist

Both John Paul II and Blessed Peter Emyard have taught us that we must learn to draw our very life from the Eucharist. Christ promised "with all of the earnestness I possess, I tell you this, unless you feed on the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life within you. But he who feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life. I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is your real food and my blood is your real drink."

In Regard to Confession

No one has stressed in the U.S. today the value of forgiveness more than Father Robert DeGrandis. Not only did he teach us the value of frequent confession, but also the power of forgiving others. In this great Sacrament of Reconciliation, we, the faithful, experience three miracles. First, every bit of sin and guilt is washed clean through the true blood of Christ. Second, all bitterness, hatred and unforgiveness is let go of. Third, we are given the awesome power to totally forgive ourselves and move on with our lives.