



# Notre Dame de Lorette Catholic Women's League



## November 2020



**HOLY MASS**

in our Parish

10:30 a.m. **AND** 7:00 p.m.

## 2020 Pope's Intentions

**November 2020: Artificial Intelligence**

We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.



# November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>Feast of All Saints</b> 	<b>2</b> <b>Feast of All Souls</b> 	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  <b>Monique Jeanson</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>  <b>Mass for CWL Deceased Members</b>	<b>9</b>  <b>Iris &amp; Louis Swiderski</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  	<b>12</b>  <div> Masses @ 10:30 am and 7:00 pm </div>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  <b>Marcia &amp; Armand Poirier</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  <b>Suzanne Moore Kathleen Messner</b>	<b>18</b>  <b>Lindsay Bouchard</b> 	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  <b>Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  <b>Madelyn McConnell</b>	<b>28</b>  <b>Patricia Danylchuk</b>
<b>29</b> 	<b>30</b>	<p>Now a Catholic is a person who has plucked up courage to face the incredible and inconceivable idea that something else may be wiser than he is. — <b>G.K. Chesterton</b> from <i>In Defense of Sanity: The Best Essays of G.K. Chesterton</i></p> <p>The future of evangelization depends in great part on the Church of the home. This apostolic mission of the family is rooted in Baptism and receives from the grace of the sacrament of marriage new strength to transmit the faith, to sanctify and transform our present society according to God's plan. — <b>St. John Pual II</b> from <i>Familiaris Consortio</i></p>				



# Lacey's Address

Hello Fr. Jorge Mario and ladies,  
I hope you are doing well and keeping yourselves safe and healthy as we enter into this devastating second wave of **COVID**. Please remember that this can be a scary, difficult and lonely time for many people and to keep us in your prayers. Perhaps now is a great time to check in on your Prayer Partner, including our shared Partner, Micki.

Unfortunately there have not been too many activities to report on for this past month due to the restrictions. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who participated in the making of our **council cookbook**. Whether you submitted a recipe, helped design the book or even decided to purchase a book.. Thank You! As we had to cancel our regular fall fundraiser and possibly the one in spring as well, this is going to be our main fundraiser for the year. The books have been ordered and will be here shortly.

But there is something you can do while you cannot go out and are looking for a worthwhile use of your time. You can send out **Christmas**

**cards to our soldiers!** They need to go into the mail ASAP to ensure that they reach the soldiers by Christmas time. This year, more than ever, they need a touch of home.

Speaking of our soldiers, the **Remembrance Day** Ceremony at the park has been cancelled this year and as such, there will be no presentation of our wreath. Father has decided to offer a bilingual mass at 10:30, followed by a minute of silence at 11, for those who still wish to celebrate the event. A second mass in English will be offered at 7:00 in the evening.

Please continue to check your inbox for any new updates, as regulations seem to be changing regularly. We are trying our best to keep you all up to date on everything. Our General meetings are also going to be on hold until at least the new year.

Keep well and safe,

*Lacey Bernardin*



**Any Canadian Forces Member**

**P.O. Box 5140 Stn. Forces**

**Belleville, ON**

**K8N 5W6**

When Mary was asked to be the mother of the Saviour, she was completely free to accept or reject the offer. Her response, "Let it be done to me," was a great act of faith. Because she did not understand what was happening, she must have known that there would be difficulties ahead.



She replied yes to the angel's announcement and agreed to become the mother of Jesus, and the Church has declared Mary to be the Mother of God. Because she was the first to say yes to the Messiah, the Church has declared her to be the Mother of the Church.

The feast of the presentation of Mary dates back to the 6th century in the East and the 15th century in the West. It is based on an ancient tradition that says Mary was taken to the temple in Jerusalem when she was 3-years-old and dedicated to God. What we celebrate on this day is the fact that God chose to dwell in Mary in a very special way. In

response, Mary placed her whole self at the service of God. Every moment since your Baptism, God invites you to be open to his grace and dedicate yourself to him, as Mary did.

**Currently collecting:** Pill Bottles Feminine Hygiene Products & Toiletries, Tabs for Wheelchairs, Used Eyeglasses, Children's Sacramental Clothing



## Adoration in our parish

Fridays, 5:00 – 6:45pm.

Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available

Followed by Holy Mass @ 7:00 pm

(Max 15% or approx. 45 people)

## Collecting CWL Fees for 2021

\$30 payable to CWL.

Please pay Suzanne either by:

- Cheque (CWL)
- Cash
- eTransfer  
([smooregaap@gmail.com](mailto:smooregaap@gmail.com))

# Resolution 2013.02: Pedestrian Corridor for PR 207 in Lorette



Hi Colleen,

The Notre Dame de Lorette Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada wishes to profoundly thank and commend the LUD of Lorette and the Council of the RM of Tache for their diligence in installing crossing lights in three areas of Lorette: in front of the collegiate, in front of the Notre Dame de Lorette parish and by the arena.

In 2013, our council created **Resolution 2013.02: Pedestrian Corridor for PR 207 in Lorette** requesting a lighted pedestrian corridor across the PR 207 near Collège Lorette Collegiate. At that time, the collegiate had a student population of 455 and climbing. The community of Lorette was constantly growing, increasing traffic flow in and out of town, in front of the collegiate. Vehicular traffic, including numerous school buses, was particularly congested during the school day, but especially at arrival and dismissal times. Further housing developments and commercial enterprises were projected to begin behind the nearby PetroCan and Marketplace, adding to future congestion of traffic. The installation of a pedestrian corridor to cross PR 207 at the specified junction, as opposed to a crosswalk, would provide citizens with a safer method of crossing.

The resolution passed at the Catholic Women's League parish (Lorette) level, then the Diocesan level, and finally was passed at the provincial level. A contingent of women from the Notre Dame de Lorette Catholic Women's League council addressed the RM of Taché in the fall of 2013 to plead for this life-saving device.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is known and highly respected for its advocacy through resolutions at the municipal, provincial and federal governments. [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca)

Lacey Bernardin, President  
The Notre Dame de Lorette council of  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Hi Lacey,

Thank you for your kind email. We appreciate hearing from people and groups within our municipality on the projects we have undertaken, or issues they are experiencing. It is especially nice to hear such positive feedback!

I have only been on the LUD since 2018 but lit crosswalks were on my list of things I wanted to see in Lorette. While it is unfortunate that the RM was not able to take action your request sooner, we are glad we could finally see this project to its fruition. It took a lot of work between the RM and Manitoba Infrastructure (the provincial department that controls hwy 207, our Main Street) to get permission to put up lit crosswalks.

Lorette is a great community with caring people such as yourselves. I am happy to be a member on the LUD of Lorette and hope to continue to making improvements to our town as it continues to grow.

Thank you again for writing.

Colleen Jolicoeur  
Member, LUD Lorette



# Reflections on The 40 Days for Life

From September 23 until November 1, 2020 Campaign Life Coalition sponsored the 40 Days for Life prayer vigil in front of the new Women's Pavilion at 665 William Avenue. Mae Ross and I signed up to do a weekly hour on Thursdays from 10:00 – 11:00. There were so many blessings and I am thankful:

For the awesome privilege and health to walk in prayer with Mae for six weeks

For the beautiful weather throughout the campaign (well, maybe a little chilly towards to end)

For having Marie McCall join us three times

For Fr. Jorge Mario's witness to life in joining us once in vigil

For the man about my age who presented me with a collector's toonie, saying, "This coin was minted to honour the soldiers who fought for our freedom. This is for you because you are fighting for the freedom of the children."

For the young, engaged couple, Avery and Catherine from Ontario who presented us with hot chocolate and cookies and thanked us for what we were doing

For Avery and Catherine who joined us in praying for two weeks while they were visiting relatives in Manitoba

For Fr. Jorge Mario's blessing prayer for Avery and Catherine

For the young woman who lifted her shirt and proudly pointed to her pregnant belly, to which I cheered, Woo Hoo!

For Carolina, the other vigiler who prayed every day in front of the hospital, despite her bad legs

For the leaders, Carol and Maria Slykerman who work hard every year to set up the vigil and struggling to find people willing to come out and pray

For meeting Jocelyn Burvill's husband at the Vigil (CWL member)

For the three young trades who came to replace us one week

For all the people who honked or stopped to thank us and encourage us

For all those who cursed us as they drove or walked by; they have been damaged in some way

For the opportunity to pray for those who support abortion in any way

For all the women who gave birth in the facility and for all those who lost their babies in the facility, whether intentionally or not

*Suzanne Moore*

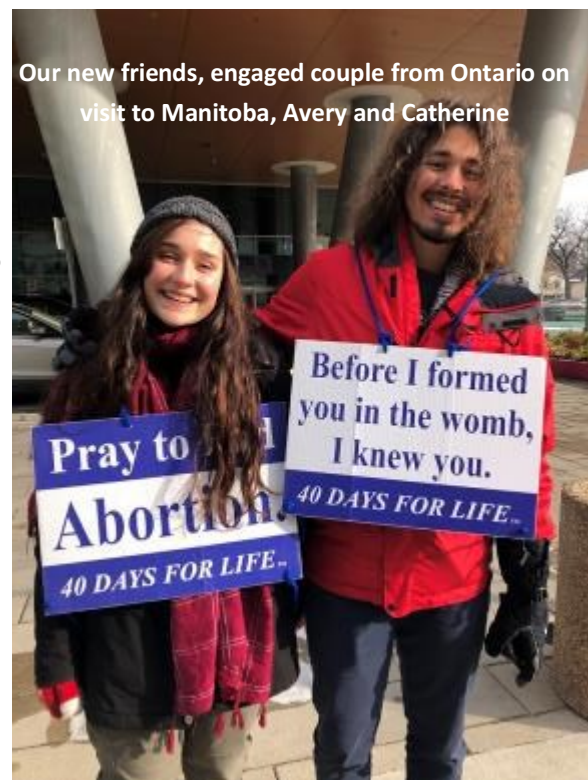
My heart is so filled with gratitude, echoing all the points that Suzanne has expressed! To be able to share that precious hour with her and Marie was a gift!

At the end of September each year, I look forward for the opportunity to pray in union and in solidarity with others who pray for an end to abortion. That is the least I feel that I can do. I pray with love in my heart for the protection of unborn babies and their mothers. I pray for those who have had abortions, for the abortionists, clinic workers, pro-choice legislators, for all

those who are pro-abortion, for those who present us 'the bird' and curse at us... for a change of heart, the conversion of their souls, for God's mercy and blessings to be upon



Printed with permission from His Grace, Archbishop LeGat



Our new friends, engaged couple from Ontario on visit to Manitoba, Avery and Catherine

them. I feel uplifted and encouraged when people give us the thumbs up, say, "God bless you" and "Thank you for what you do", etc... But, I am reminded that we gain the most by being kind and by praying for those who slight us or have very strong, opposing views and do not hesitate to express them. At the end of the hour of having quietly prayed the Holy Rosary for these very important intentions, my heart is filled with peace, love, joy and hope for all! ~ *Jesus, I trust in You!*

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." ~ *Jeremiah 1:5*

Mae Ross





# Canadian Blood Services

BLOOD  
PLASMA  
STEM CELLS  
ORGANS  
& TISSUES

Town/Community	Location	Dates	Time	Wheelchair Accessible	Appointment needed	Walk-ins
Ile-des-Chenes	TC Energy Centre 1 Rivard Street, Ile-Des-Chenes	4-Nov-20	2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Yes	No	Yes
La Salle	La Salle Caisse Community Centre 80 PR 247 E, La Salle	9-Nov-20	3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Yes	No	Yes
Landmark	Landmark Kinsmen Community Centre 191 Robert Koop Road, Landmark	16-Nov-20	4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Yes	No	Yes
Langruth	Langruth Community Hall 102 Main Street, Langruth	3-Nov-20	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Yes	No	Yes
Lorette	Lorette Parish Hall 1282 Dawson Rd., Lorette	18-Nov-20	1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Yes	No	Yes
Ste. Anne	Ste. Anne Collegiate 197 St. Alphonse, Ste. Anne	20-Nov-20	1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Yes	No	Yes
Steinbach	Clearspring Mall 178 PTH 12 N., Steinbach	5-Nov-20	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Yes	No	Yes
Steinbach	Clearspring Mall 178 PTH 12 N., Steinbach	7-Nov-20	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Yes	No	Yes
Steinbach	Clearspring Mall 178 PTH 12 N., Steinbach	21-Nov-20	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Yes	No	Yes
Steinbach	Pat Porter 10 Chrysler Gate, Steinbach	16-Nov-20	9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Yes	No	Yes

**CATH011269**

This is our donor number that you can use when donating blood.

## Advent 2020

Daily Scripture and Reflections in Preparation for Christmas

### SUNDAY

**29 NOVEMBER Mercy Rules**  
God knows what we need most for Christmas this year—freedom from our sins.  
Isaiah 63:16-19; 64:2-7

### MONDAY

**30 Good News**  
We have heard and believe. Now spread the good news that Jesus is Lord to the ends of the earth.  
Romans 10:9-18

### TUESDAY

**1 DECEMBER Newborn King**  
Jesus rules like no other—he aims only to bring peace.  
Psalm 72

### WEDNESDAY

**2 Living Stones**  
We are chosen and precious living stones, built up to offer sacrifices to Christ.  
1 Peter 2:4-9

### THURSDAY

**3 Wishing**  
The greatest Christmas gift is the joy of building one's home on faith in Christ, our foundation.  
Matthew 7:21, 24-27

### FRIDAY

**4 Shining On**  
May each twinkling light, each glowing candle, grant you the comfort of God's protection.  
Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14

### SATURDAY

**5 Peace on Earth**  
God's kingdom arrives when bounty, healing and wisdom come to all.  
Isaiah 30:18-21, 23-28

### A PRAYER FOR LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLES

In the darkness we light a flame of hope. May it dance not only upon our Advent wreath but within each of our hearts as well. Hope is the flower that blooms from the ground of faith. And so, with joy, we keep the tradition of ages past as we encircle our Advent wreath with love and prayerful expectation. May this Advent season bring us a new birth of hope in the ancient promises of God. Amen.

**6 Thy Kingdom Come**  
Though we count the days to his coming, God is not bound by time.  
2 Peter 3:8-14

**7 On the Roof**  
Whether you come bearing gifts or bring others to the blessing, God is glorified in it.  
Luke 5:17-26

**8 Christmas Caroling**  
Oh sing to the Lord a new song, a melody of the marvelous things he has done.  
Psalm 99:1-4

**9 Be Still**  
Weary of all the season's activity already? Find your rest in the presence of the Lord.  
Isaiah 40:25-31

**10 Follow Him**  
John humbled himself and pointed the way to Jesus. This alone is what makes him great.  
Matthew 11:11-15

**11 Ignore the Appearance**  
Look beyond the seasonal surface and see the peace, hope and joy beneath it.  
Matthew 10:35-19

**12 The Most High**  
Christ came down from on high to each of us, who serve him in humility.  
Luke 1:26-38

**13 We Are Called**  
Mary was blessed to receive the mission of carrying God within her.  
Luke 1:45-54

**14 Heaven's Authority**  
The power from above is present in the words and deeds of Christ, who is God-sent.  
Matthew 21:23-27

**15 Sing Out**  
Lord, may every word that comes from my mouth today give you glory and praise.  
Psalm 34:2-7, 17-19, 23

**16 God With Us**  
Jesus is that one, special gift you have always wanted but never expected. Receive him today.  
Isaiah 45:1-8, 16, 21-25

**17 Age to Age**  
From age to age prosperity shall come to God's people in Christ. Spread his blessings.  
Psalm 72:1-4

**18 Righteous Branch**  
A Branch from the line of King David shall rule in justice and righteousness.  
Jeremiah 23:5-8

**19 You Will Be Speechless**  
Quiet the voices around you today and listen to what God promises in the Word.  
Luke 1:5-25

**20 It's Possible**  
Despite the sinfulness of David's line, God remained faithful to it throughout generations.  
Luke 1:26-36

**21 Sharing Joy**  
Are friends and family coming your way? Celebrate and share the Good News together.  
Luke 1:39-45

**22 Magnify Him**  
We, his servants, lift up our voices and our lives to exalt the Lord and his help.  
Luke 1:46-56

**23 Filled With Wonder**  
With wonder and awe, we welcome those whom God has placed in our lives.  
Luke 1:57-66

**24 Way of Peace**  
When we don't know where to go, God will guide us in the way of peace.  
Luke 1:67-79

**25 Seek Him**  
Go out to see your Lord and Savior, for he will reveal himself to you, and you shall rejoice.  
Luke 2:15-20







# The Catholic Women's League of Canada

October 23, 2020

Notre Dame de Lorette Parish Council, Lorette  
Attention: Suzanne Moore  
110 rue Harpin  
Lorette, MB R5K 0Y5  
E-mail: cwllorette@gmail.com

Sent via e-mail

Dear Suzanne,

This letter is in response to your e-mail dated October 21, 2020, requesting permission to use the League crest for a cookbook. This permission is given subject to the accepted criteria that the ***League crest must be faithfully reproduced*** and used for the purposes as outlined in the request.

Displaying the League crest on cookbooks and other promotional material is a wonderful way to promote The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Should you have any further questions, please contact the national office.

Sincerely,

Fran Lucas  
National Chairperson of Organization

FL/am

Encl.

## **Additional Copies of our Cookbook**

\$10 each, payable to CWL.

Please pay Suzanne either by:

- Cheque (CWL)
- Cash
- eTransfer

([smooregaap@gmail.com](mailto:smooregaap@gmail.com))



# 15 Stirring Quotes by Newly-Beatified Teen Bl. Carlo Acutis, First Millennial Blessed

Pope Francis beatified 15-year-old Carlo Acutis on Sat., Oct. 10, 2020 in Assisi, Italy.

Born on May 3, 1991, Bl. Carlo is best known for his incredible computer programming skills and his website dedicated to Eucharistic miracles. The Italian teen also deeply loved the Eucharist and Our Lady. He prayed the Rosary and went to Mass every day.

Bl. Carlo died of leukemia on Oct. 12, 2006. He offered his sufferings for "the pains of the Pope and the Church." His tomb remains on display in Assisi, due to the vast number of pilgrims visiting before and following his beatification.

He is also the first millennial to be named "blessed."

Here's 15 quotes from this new blessed to inspire you in your daily living:

1. "The Eucharist is the highway to heaven."
2. "Our soul is like a hot air balloon. If by chance there is a mortal sin, the soul falls

to the ground. Confession is like the fire underneath the balloon enabling the soul to rise again. . . It is important to go to confession often."

3. "Continuously ask your guardian angel for help. Your guardian angel has to become your best friend."
4. "All people are born as originals but many die as photocopies."
5. "I am happy to die because I lived my life without wasting even a minute of it on anything displeasing to God."
6. "The Virgin Mary is the only woman in my life."
7. "I offer all the suffering I will have to suffer for the Lord, for the Pope, and the Church."
8. "Do not be afraid because with the Incarnation of Jesus, death becomes life, and there's no need to escape: in eternal life, something extraordinary awaits us."
9. "The more Eucharist we receive, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of heaven".

10. "When we face the sun we get a tan... but when we stand before Jesus in the Eucharist we become saints."

11. "By standing before the Eucharistic Christ, we become holy."
12. "Our goal must be infinite, not the finite. The infinite is our homeland. Heaven has been waiting for us forever."
13. "Sadness is looking at ourselves, happiness is looking towards God."
14. "The only thing we have to ask God for, in prayer, is the desire to be holy."
15. "What does it matter if you can win a thousand battles if you cannot win against your own corrupt passions? It doesn't matter. The real battle is with ourselves."

Bl. Carlo Acutis, pray for us!

[https://www.churchpop.com/2020/10/14/15-stirring-quotes-by-newly-beatified-teen-bl-carlo-acutis-first-millennial-blessed/?utm\\_campaign=ChurchPop&utm\\_medium=email&\\_hsmi=97468377&\\_hsenc=p2ANatz-a1bBFQgQLbaCO9qnMSat9I1trkRtcn14clu2OKKVUD7FRA75vbEgfNTY81Cfa4v5j9ISE0R6Z2Lyc3riVihub1LTDqa&utm\\_content=97468377&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://www.churchpop.com/2020/10/14/15-stirring-quotes-by-newly-beatified-teen-bl-carlo-acutis-first-millennial-blessed/?utm_campaign=ChurchPop&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=97468377&_hsenc=p2ANatz-a1bBFQgQLbaCO9qnMSat9I1trkRtcn14clu2OKKVUD7FRA75vbEgfNTY81Cfa4v5j9ISE0R6Z2Lyc3riVihub1LTDqa&utm_content=97468377&utm_source=hs_email)



## Team 4 - Stoney Creek, ON Immaculate Heart of Mary

### Back Row (L-R)

Pierre Caron (London, ON), Peter Roddis (Abbotsford, BC), Kyle Abrahamse (Whitby, ON), Emily Shortell (Belleville, ON)

### Front Row (L-R)

Abigail MacDonald (Halifax, NS), Marinna Fillion (Tache, MB), Amber Laybolt (Charlottetown, PEI)



## Team 2 - Retreat Team Diocese of Prince George, BC

### Back Row (L-R)

Ben Taylor (Airdrie, AB), Kyle Furedi (Lorette, MB), Samuel Brown (Buxton, Australia), Libby Kautz (St. Malo, MB)

### Front Row (L-R)

Elizabeth Keogh (Tottenham, ON), Jacqueline Ceron (London, ON), Catherine Henry (Woodstock, ON)





# The Forgiveness of Sins

All pardon for sins ultimately comes from Christ's finished work on Calvary, but how is this pardon received by individuals? Did Christ leave us any means within the Church to take away sin? The Bible says he gave us two means.

**Baptism** was given to take away the sin inherited from Adam (original sin) and any sins we personally committed before baptism. For sins committed after baptism, a different sacrament is needed. It has been called penance, confession, and reconciliation, each word emphasizing one of its aspects. During his life, Christ forgave sins, as in the case of the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1–11) and the woman who anointed his feet (Luke 7:48). He exercised this power in his human capacity as the Messiah or Son of man, telling us, “the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins” (Matt. 9:6), which is why the Gospel writer himself explains that God “had given such authority to men” (Matt. 9:8).

Since he would not always be with the Church visibly, Christ gave this power to other men so the Church, which is the continuation of his presence throughout time (Matt. 28:20), would be able to offer forgiveness to future generations. He gave his power to the apostles, and it was a power that could be passed on to their successors and agents, since the apostles wouldn't always be on earth either, but people would still be sinning.

God had sent Jesus to forgive sins, but after his resurrection Jesus told the apostles, “‘As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.’ And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained’” (John 20:21–23).

## The Commission

Christ told the apostles to follow his example: “As the Father has sent me, even so I send you” (John 20:21). Just as the apostles were to carry Christ's message to the whole world, so they were to carry his forgiveness: “Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matt. 18:18).

This power was understood as coming from God: “All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Cor. 5:18).

Some say that any power given to the apostles

died with them. Not so. Some powers must have, such as the ability to write Scripture. But the powers necessary to maintain the Church as a living, spiritual society had to be passed down from generation to generation. Christ ordered the apostles to, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.” It would take much time. And he promised them assistance: “Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age” (Matt. 28:19–20).

If the disciples believed that Christ instituted the power to sacramentally forgive sins in his stead, we would expect the apostles' successors—the bishops—and Christians of later years to act as though such power was legitimately and habitually exercised. If, on the other hand, the sacramental forgiveness of sins was what Fundamentalists term it, an “invention,” and if it was something foisted upon the young Church by ecclesiastical or political leaders, we'd expect to find records of protest. In fact, in early Christian writings we find no sign of protests concerning sacramental forgiveness of sins. Quite the contrary. We find confessing to a priest was accepted as part of the original deposit of faith handed down from the apostles.

## Lots of Gumption

Loraine Boettner, in his book *Roman Catholicism*, claims “auricular confession to a priest instead of to God” was instituted in 1215 at the Fourth Lateran Council. Yet there is much early Christian writing—a good portion of it one thousand or more years before that council—that refers to the practice of confession as something already long-established.

Actually, the Fourth Lateran Council did discuss confession. To combat the lax morals of the time, the council regulated the already-existing duty to confess one's sins by saying that Catholics should confess any mortal sins at least once a year. To issue an official decree about how frequently a sacrament must be celebrated is hardly the same as “inventing” that sacrament.

The earliest Christian writings, such as the first-century *Didache*, are indefinite on the procedure for confession to be used in the forgiveness of sins, but a verbal confession is listed as part of the Church's requirement by



the time of Irenaeus (A.D. 180). He wrote that the disciples of the Gnostic heretic Marcus “have deluded many women. . . . Some of these women make a public confession, but others are ashamed to do this, and in silence, as if withdrawing themselves from the hope of the life of God, they either apostatize entirely or hesitate between the two courses” (*Against Heresies* 1:22).

The sacrament of penance is clearly in use, for Irenaeus speaks of making an outward confession (versus remaining silent) upon which the hope of eternal life hangs, but it is not yet clear from Irenaeus just how, or to whom, confession is to be made. Is it privately, to the priest, or before the whole congregation, with the priest presiding? The one thing we can say for sure is that the sacrament is understood by Irenaeus as having originated in the infant Church.

Later writers, such as Origen (241), Cyprian (251), and Aphraates (337), are clear in saying confession is to be made to a priest. (In their writings the whole process of penance is termed *exomologesis*, which means confession—the confession was seen as the main part of the sacrament.) Cyprian writes that the forgiveness of sins can take place only “through the priests.” Ambrose says “this right is given to priests only.” Pope Leo I says absolution can be obtained only through the prayers of the priests. (See the Catholic Answers tract *Confession* for full quotes from the early Church Fathers on the sacrament of penance.)

## Confession Implied

Note that the power Christ gave the apostles was twofold: to forgive sins or to hold them bound, which means to retain them unforgiven. Several things follow from this. First, the apostles could not know which sins to forgive and which not to forgive unless they were first told the sins by the sinner. This

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

implies confession. Second, their authority was not merely to proclaim that God had already forgiven sins or that he would forgive sins if there were proper repentance.

Such interpretations don't account for the distinction between forgiving and retaining—nor do they account for the importance given to the utterance in John 20:21–23. If God has already forgiven all of a man's sins, or will forgive them all (past and future) upon a single act of repentance, then it makes little sense to tell the apostles they have been given the power to "retain" sins, since forgiveness would be all-or-nothing and nothing could be "retained."

Furthermore, if at conversion we were forgiven all sins, past, present, and future, it would make no sense for Christ to require us to pray, "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors," which he explained is required because "if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matt. 6:12–15).

If forgiveness really can be partial—not a once-for-all thing—how is one to tell which sins have been forgiven, which not, in the absence of a priestly decision? No, the biblical passages make sense only if the apostles and their successors were given a real authority.

Still, some people are not convinced. One is Paul Juris, a former priest, now a Fundamentalist, who has written a pamphlet on this subject. The pamphlet is widely distributed by organizations opposed to Catholicism. The cover describes the work as "a study of John 20:23, a much misunderstood and misused portion of

Scripture pertaining to the forgiveness of sins." Juris mentions "two main schools of thought," the Catholic and the Fundamentalist positions.

He correctly notes that "among Christians, it is generally agreed that regular confession of one's sins is obviously necessary to remain in good relationship with God. So the issue is not whether we should or should not confess our sins. Rather, the real issue is, How does God say that our sins are forgiven or retained?"

### Verse Slinging

This apparently reasonable approach masks what really happens next. Juris engages in verse slinging, listing as many verses as he can find that refer to God forgiving sins, in hopes that the sheer mass of verses will settle the question. But none of the verses he lists specifically interprets John 20:23, and none contradicts the Catholic interpretation.

For instance, he cites verses like these: "Let it be known to you therefore, brethren, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him every one that believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses" (Acts 13:38–39); "And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned'" (Mark 16:15–16).

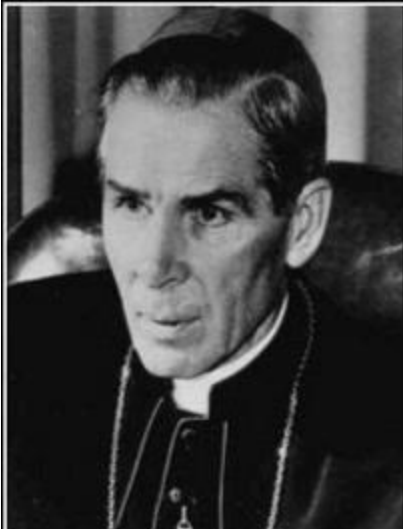
Juris says that verses like these demonstrate that "all that was left for the disciples to do was to 'go' and 'proclaim' this wonderful good news (the gospel) to all men. As they proclaimed this good news of the gospel, those who believed the gospel, their sins would be forgiven. Those who rejected (did not believe) the gospel, their sins would be retained."

Juris does nothing more than show that the Bible says God will forgive sins and that it is through Jesus that our sins are forgiven—things no one doubts. He does not remotely prove that John 20:23 is equivalent to a command to "go" and to "preach." Instead, Jesus is telling the apostles that they have been empowered to do something. He does not say, "When God forgives men's sins, they are forgiven." He uses the second person plural: "you." And he talks about the apostles forgiving, not preaching. When he refers to retaining sins, he uses the same form: "When you hold them bound, they are held bound."

### The Advantages

Is the Catholic who confesses his sins to a priest any better off than the non-Catholic who confesses directly to God? Yes. First, he seeks forgiveness the way Christ intended. Second, by confessing to a priest, the Catholic learns a lesson in humility, which is avoided when one confesses only through private prayer. Third, the Catholic receives sacramental graces the non-Catholic doesn't get; through the sacrament of penance sins are forgiven and graces are obtained. Fourth, the Catholic is assured that his sins are forgiven; he does not have to rely on a subjective "feeling." Lastly, the Catholic can also obtain sound advice on avoiding sin in the future.

Just before Christ left this world, he gave the apostles special authority to make God's forgiveness present to all people, and the whole Christian world accepted this, until just a few centuries ago. If there is an "invention" here, it is not the sacrament of penance, but the notion that the sacramental forgiveness of sins is not to be found in the Bible or in early Christian history.



A Catholic may sin and sin as badly  
as anyone else, but no genuine  
Catholic ever denies he is a sinner. A  
Catholic wants his sins forgiven - not  
excused or sublimated.

— Fulton J. Sheen —

AZ QUOTES

NIHIL OBSTAT: I have concluded that the materials presented in this work are free of doctrinal or moral errors.  
Bernadeane Carr, STL, Censor Librorum,  
August 10, 2004

IMPRIMATUR: In accord with 1983 CIC 827 permission to publish this work is hereby granted.

+Robert H. Brom, Bishop of San Diego,  
August 10, 2004

[https://www.catholic.com/tract/the-forgiveness-of-sins?utm\\_source=Catholic%20Answers%20Daily&utm\\_campaign=dca07f9608-](https://www.catholic.com/tract/the-forgiveness-of-sins?utm_source=Catholic%20Answers%20Daily&utm_campaign=dca07f9608-)



# A Joyful Truth: Purgatory Provides Consolation for Believers

Some Protestants criticize the doctrine of purgatory by saying it's "bad news" in contrast to the "good news" of salvation revealed in the Bible. But nothing could be farther from the truth. The Catholic doctrine of purgatory is indeed good news.

*Purgatory consoles believers who struggle with sin.*

We're all too familiar with our own weaknesses. Who in the world goes throughout the day without turning to a creaturely good in some inordinate way?

Perhaps it's binging of Netflix, mindlessly scrolling through Facebook, texting when someone is trying to have a conversation with you, using clock hours on the job to browse the internet for non-work-related stuff, a snappy comment to your co-worker, friend, or spouse, a brief indulgence of an uncharitable thought, a failure to promptly meet the needs of your spouse or friend when able. The list goes on and on.

It would be pretty darn hard to go through a day without falling short of Christian perfection in some way, at least for us ordinary folks. Such a task would be heroic. Heroes are rare!

Now think about the fact that death can surprise us at any moment. Jesus says, "The Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect" (Matt. 24:44). Elsewhere, he says, "Remember then what you received and heard; keep that, and repent. If you will not awake, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come upon you" (Rev. 3:3).

If death can come upon us so quickly, and we're as spiritually ill adjusted as we are, it would seem there's no hope for us entering into the glory of heaven. We might not die



weaknesses and struggles with sin also applies to those we love. So purgatory consoles us not just with regard to our own entrance into heaven, but also with regard to our loved ones.

with our wills turned fully away from God as our life's goal, but the guilt of venial sin and the effects of sin would impede us from entering such glory. Despair of final salvation would be inevitable—that is, if purgatory weren't real.

Purgatory remedies that despair and infuses joy within the soul. It allows believers who love Jesus but continue to struggle with sin in their lives to know that their shortcomings against Christian perfection are not enough to guarantee keeping them from the glory of heaven. What's so bad about that?

**Consolation for us and our loved ones...**

***Purgatory consoles believers in knowing how much God loves them.***

Purgatory also consoles us in that it manifests God's love for us.

God loves us so much that he does everything he can to make it possible for us to be united with him, including providing us a post mortem opportunity to be freed from venial sin and any remnants of sin that impede us from entrance into heaven.

Isn't God's love for us part of the Gospel's "good news"? Sure, it is! Purgatory is a doctrine that manifests such love to us.

Therefore, purgatory is good news.

**Those who have gone before us in Faith...**

***Purgatory consoles believers concerning loved ones who die without the perfect holiness required for heaven.***

Everything we said above with regard to our

Purgatory gives us the assurance that even though our loved ones die without the perfect holiness required for heaven, we know they're not forever excluded from there.

The late Marian scholar Fr. Martin Jugie puts it beautifully:

*They who mournfully follow the coffin, are consoled with thoughts of the mercy of God; of the expiation of venial sin and the cleansing of the wounds, left by mortal sin, after death; of extenuating circumstances which may have rendered certain sins venial for the dear deceased one. The anguished heart, torn with dread about the fate of the loved one, clings to this last hope, and there finds solace and some peace.*

That's good news!



Jesus fed 5000  
but only 500 followed  
Him after lunch.  
He had 12 disciples  
but only 3 went further  
in the garden,  
and only 1 stood with  
Him at the cross.  
The closer you get to  
the cross the smaller  
the crowd becomes.



# Our Lady of Kibeho – “Mother of the Word” – “Our Lady of Sorrow”

Powerful, Prophetic Apparition that Came True



On Nov. 28, 1981, at a time of increasing tension between the Tutsis and the Hutus in Rwanda, Mary appeared to 3 young girls at Kibeho College, a secondary school for girls. In one of the most powerful apparitions, Mary shared with the girls an apocalyptic vision of Rwanda descending into violence, horror and hatred.

***She said unless people repented, that horror would soon be upon them.***

In retrospect... and a sign to the authenticity of the Marian apparition, Rwanda fell into civil war and the 1994 Rwandan genocide claimed the lives of over 800,000 individuals.

The Virgin Mary appeared to the group with the name “Nyina wa Jambo” (“Mother of the Word”) synonymous with “Umubyeyi W’Imana” (“Mother of God”).

The teenage visionaries reported that the Virgin Mary asked everyone to pray to prevent a terrible war. In the vision of Aug. 19, 1982, they all reported seeing violence, dismembered corpses and destruction. The longest series of visions were attributed to Alphonsine Mumureke who received the first vision on November 28, 1981 and the last on November 28, 1989. Anathalie Mukamazimpaka’s visions began in January 1982 and ended on 3 December 1983. Marie Claire Mukangango had visions for six months, lasting from 2 March 1982 until 15 September 1982. She was later killed in the massacre of 1995 at the same location.

In the 100 days that followed the April 1994 assassination of dictator Juvénal Habyarimana, by most accounts, 800,000

Rwandans, by some accounts, over one million, were slaughtered by their countrymen and, in some cases, their next-door-neighbors. Twice, Kibeho was the sight of a massive massacre, first at the parish church in April 1994, and then a year later in April 1995 where more than 5,000 refugees who had taken shelter at Kibeho were shot by soldiers.

But rather than put tons of text here – a video is worth thousands of words... <https://youtu.be/W6Am9PDLzt0>

**Augustin Misago, the Bishop of Gikongoro, approved public devotion linked to the apparitions on 15 August 1988 (the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary) and declared their authenticity on 29 June 2001**

“It is true that the Mother of God appeared in Kibeho on the day of November 28, 1981 and during the following months. There are more well-founded reasons to believe in this than to deny it. For this reason only three visionaries from the beginning of the revelations deserve to be recognized as authentic, namely Alphonsine Mumureke, Nathalie Mukamazimpaka, and Marie Claire Mukangango. The Virgin Mary appeared to them dedicated as “Nynia wa Jambo,” meaning “Mother of the Word,” which is a synonym for “Umubyeyi w’Imana,” which means “Mother of God,” as she explained it. The visionaries maintain that they saw her sometimes with hands folded, then other times unfolded.”

Summarizing the main points of the message, he wrote:

An urgent appeal to the repentance and conversion of hearts: “Repent, repent, repent!”, “Convert while there is still time.”



The three approved visionaries, Alphonsine, Marie Claire and Anathalie.

✦ A assessment of the moral state of the world: “The world conducts itself very badly,” “The world hastens to its ruin, it will fall into the abyss,” in other words, it is plunged into innumerable and unrelenting disasters. “The world is rebellious against God, it commits too many sins, it has neither love nor peace.” “If you do not repent and do not convert your hearts, you will fall into the abyss.”

✦ The deep sorrow of the Mother of God: The Mother of God was very saddened because of people’s unbelief and lack of repentance.

✦ “Faith and unbelief will come unseen”

✦ The suffering that saves: Suffering, which is unavoidable in this life, is necessary for Christians to attain eternal glory. Kibeho is a reminder of the role of the cross in the life of a Christian and the Church.

✦ Pray always, with Zeal and single-heartedly

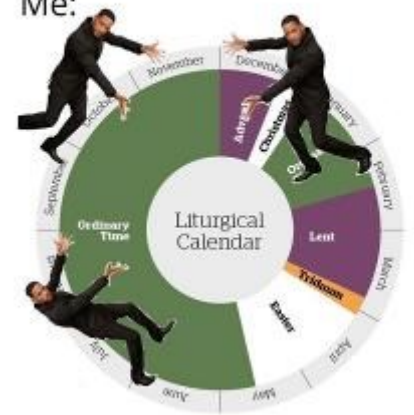
✦ Marian devotion – expressed through sincere and regular praying of the rosary.

✦ The Rosary to the Seven Sorrows of the Mother of God:

✦ Mary desires that a chapel be built for her – as a sign of the remembrance of her revelations in Kibeho.

Pray always for the Church, when many troubles are upon it in the times to come. <https://indefenseofthecross.com/marian-apparitions/kibeho/>

Them: Ok, Halloween's over, now can we listen to Christmas music Me:





# 5 Pandemic-era habits every person should keep

*We've got plenty of time to practice these now, but they're also going to give our lives more meaning for the years to come.*

I don't know about you, but for me the pandemic hasn't been just about washing my hands until they're raw or living like a hermit. Getting back to basics and working from home has given me the ability to implement some positive habits into my everyday life—a few of which I've been trying to master for years without success.

So whenever it is that we fully return to a sense of normalcy, here are the habits that I hope I'll bring with me. And if you're not already doing these things, maybe it's time for you to give them a try, too.

## TALKING TO MY NEIGHBORS

In those glorious pre-pandemic days, I would often see my neighbors next door or across the street when I was mowing the lawn, pushing my kids on swings in the backyard, or going back into the house after running an errand. Most of the time, it seemed like a hearty wave or a yelled “Hello!” was a sufficient greeting, and I would move on with the important tasks at hand.

After sheltering-in-place in our home for several months, however, I found myself getting a lot more neighborly. I felt like I was back in time—conversations over the fence with my next-door neighbors, random conversations with people walking their dogs past my driveway, socially distanced encounters on the sidewalk with people from down the street as our family took nightly evening strolls. **Our neighborhood — which previously felt like the place we drove through to get to and from our house — is beginning to feel more like a community of people we know.** That will no doubt become even more true when we can actually spend some quality time with each other.

## GOING OUTSIDE FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

This one is related, but the aforementioned family strolls, as well as my three-to-four-times-per-week evening runs, have vastly

increased the amount of daily time I spend outside. **When I was commuting to work, I was far less aware of how much of my day was spent parked at a desk in front of my**

**computer.** Now that I spend those same working hours reporting for duty in my basement home office dungeon, I feel every second of it. While I've been a casual runner for quite a while in fits and starts, the pandemic has upgraded me to “avid runner” status, and I just don't feel *right* on the days when I can't go outside for a post-work run or walk. When the weather is bad, I even find myself committed to my treadmill now. Incidentally, I've also seen improvements to my borderline high blood pressure, appetite, mood, and sleep thanks to this increased exercise.

## CATCHING UP WITH DISTANT FRIENDS

For the majority of the pandemic, one night every week has been set aside for a weekly Zoom call with my wife's cousin and one of our nieces who live in a different state. We started out calling it a “games night” and would play online games, but these days we usually spend most meetings engrossed in conversation on alternatively mundane and deep topics. It's become a therapeutic self-care necessity as well as a way to better know these family members on a much deeper level. And it simply never would have happened without the pandemic.

There have been other long-lost friends that I've caught up with via Zoom, and we've usually agreed that **it shouldn't have taken a dangerous illness sweeping the world for us to use this technology to reconnect.** Now that the awkwardness of video chat has been broken for nearly everyone, I hope to continue to catch up with folks I otherwise have lost touch with.

## DAILY JOURNALING

Yes, sometimes it feels like every day of this pandemic is exactly the same as the last one. **We might be living in our own personal version of the movie *Groundhog Day*, but that doesn't have to make our daily activities less meaningful.** To help capture the more memorable moments of this time that will someday be a chapter in our grandchildren's history books, I downloaded

a journaling app on my phone that prompts me each night to write a few lines. As with running, I have journaled in fits and starts throughout my life and always hoped it would catch on permanently. While I have to admit that it still hasn't become a daily habit, I find that when I can limit myself to writing just one quick anecdote about the day, my success rate goes up. The endless rhythm of pandemic life and the stress of having young children are wreaking havoc on my memory, so I know I'll someday treasure having even these brief glimpses into everyday life in the time of COVID.

## HONING AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

The common thread of the habits above is a focus on gratitude—for the people in my life, for my current good health, and for the daily blessings that so often go unnoticed. Practicing gratitude is a habit unto itself, and it takes *a lot* of practice, especially when life is more complicated or difficult than we might like it to be. Recognizing and thanking God for the gifts He has given us in the midst of our trials helps us to ultimately shift our mindset from a focus on complaining, stress, and negativity to a recognition of the hope, joy, and possibilities of God's plan for our lives.

Even though it's the last thing we might want to do, **facing yet another pandemic day with a conscious disposition of gratitude can help us to find greater meaning in the monotony and deeper peace in our hearts.** The hidden blessing is that we've all got plenty of time to start developing this habit right now.

[https://aleteia.org/2020/10/25/5-pandemic-era-habits-every-man-should-keep/?utm\\_campaign=NL\\_en&utm\\_source=daily\\_newsletter&utm\\_medium=mail&utm\\_content=NL\\_en](https://aleteia.org/2020/10/25/5-pandemic-era-habits-every-man-should-keep/?utm_campaign=NL_en&utm_source=daily_newsletter&utm_medium=mail&utm_content=NL_en)





# 5 Saints Who Totally Had Superpowers

God acts in mysterious ways. That truth is made particularly evident in the types of things he does with those who are especially close to him.

Here are a few saints who totally had superpowers:



## 1) St. Joseph of Cupertino: Flying

Called “the flying saint,” we’re not talking about a few stories claiming St. Joseph of Cupertino flew in private or just for a few people. We’re talking

about him *regularly flying in front of large groups of people.*

Whether it was during Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, or just at the mention of the name of Jesus or a saint, Joseph would involuntarily go into ecstasy and start levitating. This apparently happened once during a public procession in front of the whole town, and once even during an audience for the pope. His constant, uncontrollable levitating actually became a problem. His religious superiors deemed the phenomenon disruptive. At the end of his life, he was transferred to different monasteries and kept in cells by himself. But he kept on levitating at the name of Jesus anyway...



## 2) Christina the Astonishing: Indestructibility

Though she is not an officially canonized saint in the Church, she was considered a saint in her

own lifetime (12th and 13th centuries), and has some pretty interesting stories nonetheless, all of which display the fact that she was basically indestructible. For starters, she appeared to die of a seizure in her early 20s. Her body was prepared for burial and a funeral was held, but *in the middle of the funeral* she got up, full of energy. She said she had had a supernatural experience of heaven, hell, and purgatory. She told her family and friends that the sole reason she had returned was to suffer for the relief of those in purgatory and for the conversion of sinners still on earth. That’s when she started to do some pretty intense things.

First, she fasted and deprived herself of any bodily comforts pretty severely. But that wasn’t enough. She also would regularly throw herself into burning furnaces but leave

them without burns. In the dead of winter, she would go swimming in a nearby icy river, sometimes staying in the water for days or even weeks at a time. Sometimes, she would even allow herself to be sucked into a mill that was operating on the river and would be whirled around by the mill wheel. She would also allow herself to be ravaged by dogs or would go running through thorns. But through all these things, she would always come away unscathed.

Despite all of these things, she lived to be 74 years old.



## 3) St. Catherine of Alexandria: Jedi Mind Trick

St. Catherine was a princess in Egypt in the

3rd century and received a good education. Though raised as a pagan, when she was a teenager she claimed that the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to her, told her that she had been wed to Christ in a mystical marriage, and she was converted to the Christian faith. Soon after, she got a personal audience with Roman Emperor Maxentius and tried to convince him to stop persecuting Christians. The emperor brought out his best philosophers and rhetoricians to debate Catherine – but, amazingly, she won their debate. Several of her interlocutors were so impressed, they converted to Christianity. Furious, the emperor had her imprisoned. But her persuasiveness just continued in prison. Among those she met in prison and those who visited, 200 people were converted by her evangelism. When she refused to stop converting people to the Christian faith despite being tortured, the emperor tried to persuade her to stop by asking her to marry him. She refused, and he sentenced her to death. But when she touched the spiked breaking wheel that was going to be used to kill her, it shattered spontaneously. Finally, the emperor ordered her to be beheaded, which successfully ended her life.

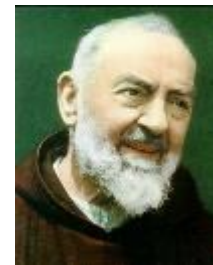


## 4) St. Vincent Ferrer: Bringing People Back from the Dead

St. Vincent Ferrer is most famous for his missionary work, preaching, and theology. But he also

had a pretty amazing supernatural ability: he could bring people back from the dead. And he apparently did this on several occasions. According to one story, Vincent entered a church with a corpse inside. In front of a number of witnesses, Vincent simply made the Sign of the Cross over the corpse, and the person came back to life.

In one particularly impressive story, Vincent happened upon a procession for a certain man to be executed by hanging for committing a grievous crime. Somehow, Vincent knew that the person was innocent, and he pleaded with the government officials, but to no use. Coincidentally, a corpse was being carried by on a stretcher. Vincent asked the corpse, “Is this man guilty? Answer me!” The dead man immediately came back to life, sat up, and said, “He is not!” The man then laid back down on the stretcher. When Vincent offered the man a reward for helping to vindicate the innocent man, the man said, “No, father, for I am assured of my salvation.” And so he died again right then.



## 5) St. Padre Pio: Superman

A famous saint who lived in the 20th century, St. Padre Pio had just about every superpower you can think of: there are

claims that he could bi-locate (be in more than one place at a time), read people’s minds (usually in the confessional – he was a priest), levitate, and heal sick people.

In one story, a professional mathematician was confessing his sins to Pio in the confessional, though the fact that he did not tell Pio that he was a mathematician. When he was a bit vague on how many times he had committed a particular sin, Pio responded firmly: “You’re a mathematician, leave the confessional and comeback when you know how many times you did that.”

In 1950, Pio was once seen attending the funeral of a monk in Milwaukee, Wisconsin – but without ever having left his own monastery in Italy. Regarding his ability to bi-locate, one person reports that Pio once said, “I can do three things at once: pray, confess, and go around the world.”

<https://churchpop.com/2015/01/27/5-saints-who-totally-had-superpowers/>



# I Knew a Priest Who Could See the Dead



DI'll call him Fr. John. He was a charismatic Anglo Catholic priest.

A friend of my brother Daryl's we'll call Henry died suddenly in a plane crash and he was upset because although Henry was a believer he was away from God when he died.

So, Fr. John said, "We have to have a requiem Mass for Henry."

They went into church and locked the door for privacy's sake. Another priest we'll call Fr. George celebrated the Mass.

Henry was about twenty years old. He was just over five feet tall with a shock of blonde hair and a wide face with freckles.

At the point of communion Daryl was weeping and sensed that Henry was there next to him and that Henry was restless and disturbed. In his own mind Daryl told Henry not to be frightened. They were praying for him to meet Jesus.

After the Mass Daryl said to Fr. John, "I sensed that Henry was there in some way."

Fr. John said, "Oh yes. I saw him."

"What do you mean you saw him?"

"At the offertory a young man came down from the back of the church."

"Hold on. The door was locked. I didn't see anybody."

Fr. John smiled, "I know you didn't, but I did."

"What did he look like?"

"Just over five feet tall with a broad freckled face and a shock of blonde hair."

"That's Henry! But I didn't describe him to you. You mean you saw a ghost?"

"I saw Henry just as solid and real as you are now."

"What happened then?"

"He knelt next to you at the communion rail, and after Mass he went out into the East end of the church and upward into the morning light"

Fr. George said, "I sensed his presence too, but didn't see him. He was in my mind as John described him."

Neither priest knew Henry who lived in the USA. This took place in England.

True story. Not exaggerated.

What do we make of it? I have thought a lot about this experience over the years and I think certain people simply have psychic gifts like certain people have artistic or athletic or musical gifts. It is up to them to give the gift back to God and use it for his glory.

A person might have a psychic gift and yield it to Satan and let it be used in spiritualism, fortune telling or some other occult activity.

On the other hand, it can be yielded to God and used for healing, discernment, reading of souls and spiritual direction.

Padre Pio clearly had astounding gifts which he yielded to God.

The problem with such people is that very often the very gifts they have set them apart and they have a very difficult spiritual path to follow.

We should never seek such gifts, but if we have them, we must yield them to God and allow the Spirit to develop them through a serious life of prayer and holiness so that these gifts might be transformed by the Holy Spirit.

We should also remember that the psychic gifts are not a guarantee of personal holiness any more than being gifted musically, artistically or in athletics makes you holy. Becoming a saint is a nitty gritty, down to earth difficult business. It has little to do with mystical visions and everything to do with discipline and self denial.

Having a psychic gift does not mean you are automatically holy.

The sad fact of the matter is Fr. John eventually left the priesthood and left his wife to live in sin with a boyfriend.

Psychic gifts? They're always to be yielded to the Holy Spirit and the person must be under supervision of a good spiritual director and if possible—one who is level-headed and tough. The objective means of grace are the sacraments. God's saving grace is always present there.

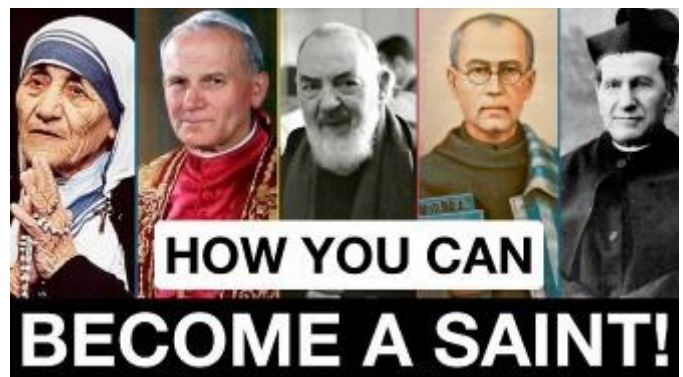
The requiem Mass was effective in applying the saving love of Christ to the needs of a suddenly departed soul. It was the Mass which was effective, and it would have been if anyone had been able to see the dead or not.

What do you make of the fact that the Eucharist was Anglican and not "properly Catholic"? The church teaches that God is not limited by his sacraments. That an Anglican Eucharist is beneficial and may be a means of grace is not disputed by the Catholic Church. At the same time the Church teaches that it is not a fully valid Catholic Mass.

We can assume that the prayers of Christ's faithful were heard and we can certainly hope that what was seen in a vision was true in reality: that Henry went further into Christ's light and love.

Seeing the dead or having apparitions, locutions or visions? These seemingly supernatural gifts are astounding, but they should never make us lose sight of Christ the Lord and the primacy of his church and sacraments.

<https://churchpop.com/2014/08/10/i-knew-a-priest-who-could-see-the-dead/>



# What's the Point of All Saints Day?

Every December, the secular, cultural celebration of Christmas overshadows the religious holiday on which it is based.

Essentially the same thing happens at the end of October, when the way American culture celebrates Halloween overshadows All Saints Day.

**There's nothing intrinsically wrong with costumes and candy**, but in the minds of most people Halloween has become so detached from its religious roots that they have no idea where it comes from.

The old-fashioned word *Halloween* contributes to this. People may have an inkling that it's short for "All Hallows Eve," but that doesn't help much—because they don't know what a *hallow* is or what it means to celebrate the eve of something.

English has an unusual double vocabulary, with many words based on Latin roots but others based on German roots. That's why we have two words for so many things. One example is *cat* (derived from a German root) and *feline* (derived from a Latin root). The word *hallow* belongs to one of these German/Latin pairs. But it's much less familiar to us than the parallel word from Latin: *saint*.

*Hallow* comes from the same root as *holy*, and a person who is hallowed is a saint—someone who has been sanctified or made holy. Thus in the Lord's Prayer we say "Hallowed be thy name." If we said that in using words derived from Latin, it would be something like, "Let your name be sanctified"—i.e., may people treat God's name as something holy and thus honor the holiness of God himself.

The *-een* part of *Halloween* is similarly old-fashioned. "E'en" is a contraction of the word *even*, an older way of saying "evening." *Halloween* is thus "All hallows e'en" or "the evening of All Saints Day," and it came to be celebrated as an early anticipation of the day that followed, the same way people celebrate Christmas Eve in anticipation of Christmas Day.

**But why celebrate All Saints Day in the first place?** Some of our Protestant friends object to the Catholic custom of celebrating certain saints and giving them special attention. Aware that there are liturgical days commemorating individual saints, they want

to know why there aren't celebrations for all the other people in heaven.

After all, in Revelation John describes the population of heaven this way:

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Rev. 7:9-10).

Don't all those other people deserve

the Sunday after Pentecost, which has a certain logic since Pentecost was the event that led to the evangelization of the world and the salvation of so many souls.

In the West, November 1 became the date on which all the saints are commemorated. Sometimes people will try to tarnish this with pagan associations, claiming that it was based on the Gaelic holiday Samhain, as celebrated in the British Isles.

But All Saints Day didn't originate in the British Isles. The reason November 1 was picked is that Pope Gregory III (731-741) dedicated a chapel in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome to all the saints and fixed its anniversary as November 1.

Later, Pope Gregory IV (827-844) extended this celebration to the whole of the Western Church. This led to the commemoration of the evening before as All Hallows Eve, and it led to the following day—November 2—being celebrated as All Souls Day, when we pray for all the souls who are still being purified on their way to heaven.

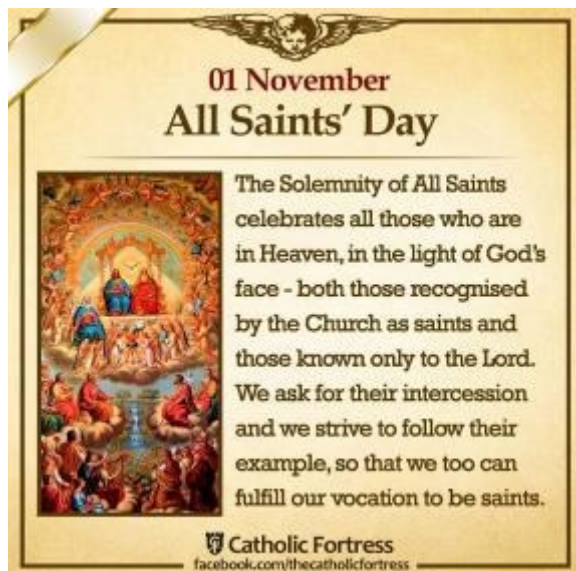
Though we disagree about various matters, both Catholics and Protestants say the Apostles' Creed, and when we do so we profess belief in "the communion of saints." The celebration of All Saints Day is one of the ways Catholics live out this profession.

**All Saints Day came to be a very important** liturgical day, and today it is a holy day of obligation in the United States, meaning that Catholics must observe it by going to Mass, as they do on Sundays.

This makes All Saints different than the commemorations of individual saints. None of the saints living after biblical times are commemorated with holy days of obligation. However famous saints like Augustine, Aquinas, and Thérèse of Lisieux may be, they don't have such an important day on the liturgical calendar.

But the whole body of the saints in heaven—sainted grandmothers included—do. The Catholic Church thus not only remembers individual saints; it takes seriously its profession of the entire communion of saints.

[https://www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/whats-the-point-of-all-saints-day?utm\\_source=Catholic%20Answers%20Daily&utm\\_campaign=e30f214b0d-CADaily110119&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_6b4f9e3af2-e30f214b0d](https://www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/whats-the-point-of-all-saints-day?utm_source=Catholic%20Answers%20Daily&utm_campaign=e30f214b0d-CADaily110119&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6b4f9e3af2-e30f214b0d)



recognition, too?

The answer is that they do, and this is why we have All Saints Day. Since there are only 365 days in the year, not every person in heaven can have his own liturgical commemoration, but they all should be recognized for the way they cooperated with God's grace. Thus, All Saints Day was created to commemorate every last individual in heaven, even those who salvation is known to God alone.

So, if your departed grandmother is in heaven, even though she's never been canonized, on All Saints Day the Catholic Church commemorates her and the work God did in her life. She, too, has a place in the liturgical calendar, alongside the more famous saints.

**Precisely when that day occurs** will depend which liturgical calendar you are using.

In many Eastern Catholic Churches, the commemoration of all the saints is held on





God at the end of 2020



I got thrown out of my local park after arranging the squirrels by height.

They didn't like me critter sizing.

