

Homily for the Feast of All Saints

I believe in Jesus Christ. I believe that Jesus Christ was conceived, born, lived and died. I believe that He rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. I believe that Jesus Christ sent the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower and guide the Church that is the continued presence of Christ in our world. I believe that the Gospel that Jesus preached is the path of life that teaches us how to live today and prepares us for the fullness of life in an eternity of love.

I believe that the world has been and is populated by human beings who search the depth of their hearts and find in their conscience the voice of God that they struggle to follow. And I believe that when they complete their journey, they are received by God's loving arms and become one with God and all those who have gone before them in faith. I believe that these people are the ones we call The Saints.

I believe with all my heart that to be one with Jesus Christ in living the Gospel is to be one with all humanity...here on earth and those who have gone ahead of us. And as we are one with each other in this life, we are also one with the saints who await us in the next life.

We know some of their names: we know Francis and Clare, and Augustine and Teresa of Avila; we know Edith Stein and Maximilian

Kolbe. We know the saints of long past and those who were announced last month. **But what we really know** is that the saints we pray to are only a handful compared with the uncounted and uncountable legions of saints.

This is what this Feast (today) is all about...the immense love of God that calls each and every one of us to an eternity of love. Today's Feast beckons us to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For I believe in the life of the world to come...a life that is ours as we join all the saints whose lives we celebrate today and whose example makes real the promise of tomorrow.