

We are all Called to be Saints

On the Feast of All Saints (2013), Pope Francis stressed that the saints are not super humans, born perfect, but rather are ordinary people who followed God with all their heart. The Pope emphasised that everyone can be a saint.

Pope Francis guides us toward sainthood by sharing his top ten observations of the Saints:

- 1 They are like us, they are like each of us, they are people who before reaching the glory of heaven lived a normal life, with joys and grief, struggles and hopes.
- 2 Each saint changed his or her life when they recognised the love of God, they followed God with all their heart, without conditions and hypocrisies.
- 3 They spent their lives in the service of others, they endured suffering and adversity without hatred and responded to evil with good, spreading joy and peace.
- 4 The saints give us a message. They tell us: be faithful to the Lord, because the Lord does not disappoint! He does not disappoint ever, and he is a good friend always at our side.
- 5 The saints, the friends of God, assure us that this promise does not disappoint. In their earthly existence, in fact, they had lived in profound communion with God. In the smallest and most despised faces of their brothers, they saw the face of God, and now they contemplate God face to face in God's glorious beauty.

6 The saints show joy and love. The saints are men and women who have joy in their hearts and spread it to others. Never hating, but serving the other, is the greatest need. To pray and to live in joy: this is the way of sanctity!

7 The saints do not place conditions. They are not violent but merciful and they seek to be makers of reconciliation and peace.

8 The saints are also a source of fortitude and hope.

9 The saints encourage us with their witness not to have fear of going against the current or fear of being misunderstood and derided when we speak of the Lord and of the Gospel.

10 They show us with their lives that the one who remains faithful to God and to God's words experiences now on this earth the comfort of God's love and then experiences it a hundredfold in eternity.

The Feast of All Saints reminds us that the goal of our existence is not death, it is paradise!

Pope Francis concluded his general audience with these words, "the Kingdom of Heaven is for those who trust in the love of God and do not put their security in material things. It is for those with humility and a simple heart who do not judge others. The Kingdom of Heaven is for those who suffer with the one who suffers and rejoice with the one who rejoices".

References: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2013/documents/papa-francesco_20131030_udienza-generale.html; <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/pope-francis-sanctity-is-for-everyone-saints-are-not-supermen>

REFLECTION

May the hope of saints motivate you to journey toward your calling!

- > Do you have a saint who is special to you?
- > What does this saint teach you about God's love?