

Saints: Still Alive Now

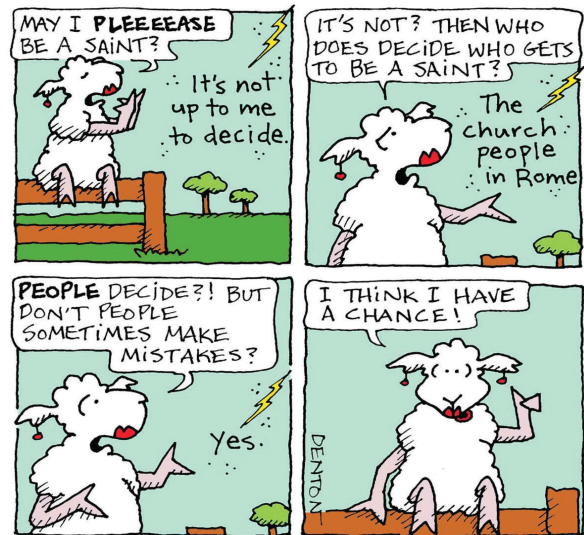
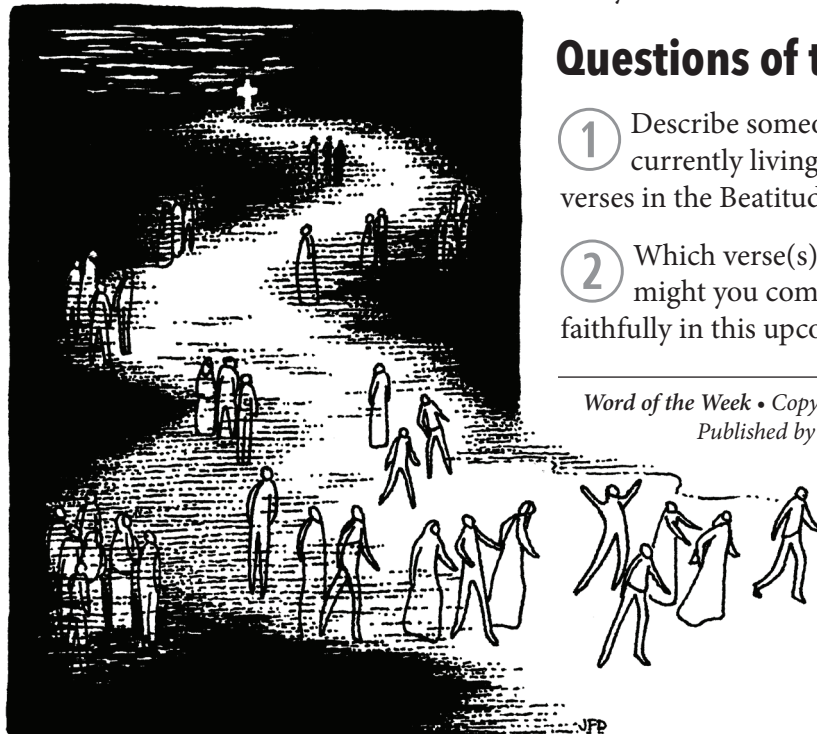
This Week's Readings at Mass

- Revelation 7:2-4,9-14 • Rejoicing of the Elect
- 1 John 3:1-3 • Children of God
- Matthew 5:1-12a • The Beatitudes

On this feast of All Saints Day, the beatitudes offer a description of and an inspiration to sainthood. This is a day to recognize and remember saints. We remember those who have been officially recognized through the Church's canonization process, and those who will never be universally recognized because they lived "ordinary" lives of saintliness.

In the New Testament, all Christians were called saints; the term wasn't reserved only for famous martyrs. What if we widened our personal definition of saints to include people we know who live the beatitudes? In that case, a loved one who is grieving the death of a spouse is a saint. The young people volunteering for the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in their thirst for righteousness are saints. The person who shows mercy to an estranged relative is a saint. Sainthood doesn't mean someone is living a life of perfect holiness, and they have attained perfection. None of the official Saints with a capital "S" were able to reach that either.

If we only think of saints as people in a distant time and place who lived with outstanding piety, we risk letting ourselves off the hook in recognizing and cultivating holiness in our own lives. The truth is, we are all called to be saints in the particular time and circumstances in which we each live. The sainthood of a



"We are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him."

Sheepish Question:

What can I do every day to improve my chances of saintliness?

parent trying to work and homeschool a child during the time of COVID-19 will look different from the sainthood of a healthcare worker or a grocery store cashier, or a widow living alone during the pandemic. All of them will suffer their own shortcomings, maybe impatience, despair, or anger at times. Yet in still striving to live the Beatitudes, they will be living saintly lives.

Questions of the Week

- 1 Describe someone you know who is currently living out at least one of the verses in the Beatitudes.
- 2 Which verse(s) of the Beatitudes might you commit to living out more faithfully in this upcoming week? How so?

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