FATHER SCOTT WALLISCH'S

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Flock,

Happy All Saints Day! If you were expecting me to say, “Happy 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time”, I am sorry to disappoint you (get used to it), but when this solemnity falls on a Sunday, it trumps (that was a normal, everyday word before it was a president’s last name) the Ordinary Time Sunday. Anyway, I hope you are enjoying celebrating the saints as much as the world seems to enjoy celebrating Halloween (in my day, a poorly carved jack-o-lantern was the extent of most decorating, but now you need at least ten life-sized skeletons.)

Before talking more about today’s solemnity of the saints, I thought I would give you a friendly reminder of your civic duty. As Catholics, we are called to participate in the electoral process. So, make sure to educate yourselves on the important issues, forming yourself through Church teachings, and then exercise your right to vote. Finally, make sure to pray that God’s will is done.

Alright, back to the saints (you can read this while you chomp on your newly acquired candy – but not in the church, of course.) It is a wonderful gift of the Church to invite us to celebrate the communion of the saints together each year. It is true that we celebrate individual saints on their feast days throughout the year, but this is an opportunity to celebrate them all together in a big happy band.

As we celebrate them together, we can think of them as a team. I have a whole team of saints. There are almost 50 of them, and I look to them for intercession every morning. There is my name patron (Anthony), while some were the patrons of parishes I have lived in or worked at (Martin de Porres, Matthew, John Vianney), some have a connection to a different ministry or school I have been a part of (Francis de Sales, James), some are on because I have prayed at their tombs (Helena, Carlo Acutis, Catherine of Siena), and some just because they inspire me (Peter, John Paul II, Maximilian). Having a team of saints to walk with has been very helpful. I also enjoy celebrating their feast days each year.

I encourage you to think about having a saint team. They can give you an example of how to live, they can inspire you in difficult moments, their writings can instruct you, and they can intercede for you. Which saints are on your team? If you do not have a team yet, you can start with your baptismal saint and your confirmation saint. Have you lived at parish or gone to a high school named after a saint? Have you visited different parts of the country or world and encountered the tombs of a saint? There are so many reasons why a saint may be good for your team. Just pay attention to which saints attract you the most, place them on your team, and then ask for their prayers daily.

Okay, enjoy this solemnity. We will get back to ordinary time next week, but we have only a few weeks before we start the liturgical year all over. Let us make the most of the last month of this year.

In Christ’s Peace,

Fr. Scott Wallisch