

PRAYERS FOR DISCERNMENT

Recommendation by Tim McCormick

Some people might not know that my wife, Rakhi, is a convert from Hinduism. She entered into the Church during her college years at the University of Iowa, where she credits both a strong attraction to the Eucharist and the welcoming Catholic Campus Ministry community there as being decisive in her decision to become Catholic. If you are interested in viewing her whole testimony, you can see her appearance on EWTN's popular television show "The Journey Home." Today, she works as the communications director for the Coming Home Network, which assists men and women from all over the world on their journey into the Church. They do really amazing work.



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The Journey Home

Rakhi McCormick

www.youtube.com/watch?v=9guBsFI_jAk



I bring this up because this time of year a number of people begin the journey of becoming Catholic through a local parish OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) program. Our own Mr. Petty has been leading people into the faith through Guardian Angels's OCIA program for a number of years. So, I want to encourage you to pray for all those who are discerning whether or not to begin the process of entering the Church. For many of them, it is not an easy decision, and so often the decision to become Catholic comes with a deep personal cost. Also, please pray for those who help accompany them, like Mr. Petty, that God may use them in ways that best minister to the unique needs of each OCIA participant.

Sts. Charles Borromeo and Robert Bellarmine, pray for us and for all those discerning coming into the Church.

PRAYERS TO CELEBRATE ALL SAINTS' DAY

Recommendation by Ken Pullis

The Second Vatican Council, which took place from 1962 to 1965, was convened by St. Pope John XXIII to address how the Church might bring the message of Jesus to the modern world. Throughout history, the message of the Gospel, also known as the Kerygma, has always been preached to an ever-changing world. The Kerygma can be simply summarized in these four statements: **God creates. Sin destroys. Jesus saves. Man responds.** This message resonates today more than ever as we see the devastating effect of sin and how it divides us from each other and from God. And yet Jesus continues to save us with His love and grace through the sacraments that bring us into communion with Him.

We are called to respond to Jesus' simple invitation: **Come, follow me.**

The saints give us an example of saying "yes" to the call to holiness that we all received in baptism. As we prepare to celebrate All Saints' Day on November 1, may we pray to these saints and all the saints to lead us to Christ. In the words of St. Paul, **"Imitate me as I imitate Christ."** Here are a few saints that are featured in the Church calendar for October that may inspire us to be holy in our daily lives as we follow Christ.

OCT. 1

St. Therese of Lisieux

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OCT. 4

St. Francis of Assisi

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OCT. 7

Our Lady of the Rosary

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OCT. 12

St. Carlo Acutis

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St. Teresa of Avila

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St. Ignatius of Antioch

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St. Isaac Jogues

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OCT. 22

St. Pope John Paul II

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THE BEATITUDES: PART II

Reflection by Steve Petty

In last month's edition of Catholic Corner, we introduced a new series on The Beatitudes. As you may recall The Beatitudes are spiritual dispositions that make us happy. As Pope Francis pointed out in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Gaudete et Exsultate* (On the Call to Holiness), the words "happy" and "blessed" can be used as synonyms for the word "holy". In other words, the more holy you become the more happy you are. The road to holiness begins with the first Beatitude:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"

Matthew 5:3

To be poor in spirit means that a person has a heart whose primary concern is the mind and heart of Jesus. The poor in spirit know that away from Jesus, they are lost. This realization allows these disciples to pursue the spiritual realm and detach themselves from the worldly. Disciples with humble hearts know of their need for Jesus. They realize that a loving relationship with God is the treasure of all treasures. Pope Francis puts it this way:

"Wealth ensures nothing. Indeed, once we think we are rich, we can become so self-satisfied that we leave no room for God's word, for the love of our brothers and sisters, or for the enjoyment of the most important things in life. In this way, we miss out on the greatest treasure of all. That is why Jesus calls blessed those who are poor in spirit, those who have a poor heart, for there the Lord can enter with his perennial newness."

This month, make it a point to work on becoming poor in spirit. One suggestion that I would offer you is to pick up a copy of *The Little Flowers of St. Francis*. This little book is one of those spiritual treasures from our Catholic tradition. St. Francis is one of the most well known and beloved saints in the history of the Church. He embraced material poverty as a way of detaching from the world so we could develop in holiness. The chapters are only a couple of pages long, but they are very heart warming and inspirational as they tell the story of St. Francis and his earliest companions. I've always gotten a great deal of spiritual fruit from these stories. St. Francis was a man who truly lived the Beatitudes.