



COMMUNION OF SAINTS

Presentation on the Saints & the Blessed Virgin Mary



GROUP DISCUSSION

❖ In your group, briefly share about your family.

1. Are you (were you) close to your parents?
2. How many siblings do you have? Where do you fall in birth order?
3. Do you have a family of your own? What is your family like?
4. How important is your family? What difference does your family make in your life?

(If time, share where you grew up, family vacations you may have taken, family traditions)

ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY



- ❖ Therefore, putting away falsehood, speak the truth each one to his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Eph. 4:25
- ❖ For in one Spirit we are all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, we are all given to drink of the one Spirit. 1Cor. 12:13

CALLED TO HOLINESS

❖ “[Our primary vocation is] the vocation to holiness, that is, the perfection of charity. Holiness is the greatest testimony of the dignity conferred on a disciple of Christ and the basic charge entrusted to all the sons and daughters of the Church.” *Pope John Paul II, On the Vocation and Mission of the Lay Faithful in the World*



HOLY = SAINT



- ❖ Sanct = Holy
- ❖ Sanctify = make holy, blessed, set apart
- ❖ Sanctuary = a sacred or holy place
- ❖ Sanctus Spiritus = Holy Spirit



HEROES OF THE CHURCH

❖ Saints are heroes

The witnesses who have preceded us into the kingdom, especially those whom the Church recognizes as saints, share in the living tradition of prayer by the example of their lives, the transmission of their writings, and their prayer today. They contemplate God, praise him and constantly care for those whom they have left on earth. When they entered into the joy of their Master, they were “put in charge of many things.” Their intercession is their most exalted service to God’s plan. We can and should ask them to intercede for us and for the whole world. *CCC 2683*

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HEROIC VIRTUE

By canonizing some of the faithful, i.e., by solemnly proclaiming that they practiced heroic virtue and lived in fidelity to God's grace, the Church recognized the power of the Spirit of holiness within her and sustains the hope of believers by proposing the saints to them as models and intercessors. "The saints have always been the source and origin of renewal in the most difficult moments in the Church's history." *CCC 828*

WHAT DO SAINTS DO FOR US?

Role Models

- ❖ Inspiration
- ❖ Faithful
- ❖ Honor
- ❖ Respect
- ❖ Holy

Intercession

- ❖ Praying for us
- ❖ "Do not weep, for I shall be more useful to you after my death and I shall help you then more effectively than during my life." *St. Dominic*
- ❖ "I want to spend my heaven in doing good on earth." *St. Therese of Lisieux*

OLD SCHOOL SAINTS



St. Gabriel

St. Patrick



St. Bonaventure



St. Francis



St. Brigid



St. Augustine



St. Luke

St. Teresa of Avila



St. Dominic

St. Michael





CANONIZATION OF SAINTS

1. "Fame of sanctity" or "fame of martyrdom" of the deceased.
Investigation of life lived.
2. Declared Venerable
3. Miracle in response to intercession
4. Beatification – declared Blessed
5. Miracle in response to intercession
6. Canonization – declaration of sainthood

CURRENT SAINTA



Bl. Pier Frassati

St. Therese of Lisieux



St. Kolbe



St. Andrew

St. Padre Pio



St. Damien



St. Gianna Molla



GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What is your connection with your mother?
2. How has she affected you?
3. Have you ever connected with someone who was "like a mother" to you? Who?



THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY

- ❖ The “New Eve” – Where Eve said No, Mary said Yes.

[Dogmas (truths that have been revealed that Catholics believe) about Mary]

- ❖ Immaculate Conception – born without original sin & preserved from all actual sin
- ❖ Mother of God – gave birth to Jesus, who is God. Unique relationship with the Trinity (Daughter of God the Father, Mother of God the Son, Virginal Spouse of the Holy Spirit)

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY



- ❖ Mary, Blessed Virgin & “ever-virgin” – Jesus came from God, not man. Her virginity is *the sign of her faith...* of her undivided gift of herself to God. *CCC 506*
- ❖ Assumption – Her body and soul were taken up in heavenly glory. Dormition

MARY, IDEAL MODEL

- ❖ Her perfection
- ❖ Her charity
- ❖ Her hope
- ❖ Her joy
- ❖ Her faith
- ❖ Her simplicity



QUEEN OF SAINTS



- ❖ We honor & respect Mary and the Saints
- ❖ We pray *through* them, not to them
- ❖ We revere Saints with *dulia* (human reverence & devotion)
- ❖ Mary with *hyperdulia* (greatest human reference)
- ❖ God alone receives *latira* (worship & adoration)

IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT MARY & THE SAINTS

- ❖ Mary and the Saints always point us and lead us towards Christ.
- ❖ We show reverence to our faithful family members.
- ❖ Our family members help us to become closer to God & holy.
- ❖ Let us live out our saintly lives!

