Sainthood

**Love the Lord, all you his saints.**

**The Lord preserves the faithful.**

***(Psalm 31:23)***

**A synagogue or church that admitted only saints would be like a hospital that admitted only healthy people. It would be a lot easier to run, and a more pleasant place to be, but I'm not sure it would be doing the job it is here to do. *(Harold Kushner, in Who Needs God)***

**1821: The first native-born American saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton, died in Emmitsburg, Maryland. *(presstelegram.com)***

**The saintly and the cynical, the divine and the diabolical, the courageous and the cowardly, all these aspects lie dormant in us and will act out if they are not the recognized and integrated into our psyches. Many of us are frightened of the light as well as the dark. Many of us are frightened to look within ourselves, and fear has us put up walls so thick we no longer remember who we really are. *(Debbie Ford, in The Dark Side of the Light Chasers)***

**The Catholic Church will soon have two new saints, said Nicole Winfield in the Associated Press. Pope Francis last week fast-tracked the sainthood of two recent popes – John Paul II, who died in 2005, and John XXIII, who led the church in the early 1960s. By simultaneously canonizing John Paul II, a conservative who fiercely defended the church’s traditional moral values, and John XXIII, a champion of social justice who liberalized many church traditions, Francis has honored both wings of a divided church. “That’s a good formula for harmony, something Catholicism needs right now.” *(The Week magazine, July 19, 2013)***

**You will not become a saint through other people’s sins. *(Anton Chekhov)***

**Someone who plays devil's advocate argues an opposing point of view simply for the sake of presenting an alternative argument. This term originated with the Roman Catholic Church. When a person was chosen to be sainted, a lawyer officially known as the Promoter of the Faith, but commonly called the Devil's advocate, was appointed to argue against the candidate's canonization. This Devil's advocate debated against the Promoter of Justice, or God's advocate, who argued for sainthood. *(The Daily Chronicle)***

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**Don't call me a saint. I don't want to be dismissed so easily. *(Dorothy Day, activist and journalist, in Catholic Courier)***

**Don't forget that the saint is not the person who never falls, but rather the one who never fails to get up again, humbly and with a holy stubbornness. *(St. Josemaria Escriva)***

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**It’s fun to be ninety-one because you’re elevated to sainthood, though you’re still ornery as ever. Everyone rushes to seat you and you’re served first. Honorary membership is easier than active membership. And wrinkles are okay. *(Faye Field, longtime Guideposts contributor)***

**Sainthood emerges when you can listen to someone's tale of woe and not respond with a description of your own. *(Dr. Andrew V. Mason)***

**Sainthood: “Proving” a miracle can be a lengthy process that only a diocese or religious order can afford. That’s why the catalog of saints is packed with popes and other church officials, while ordinary Catholics who live extraordinarily holy lives – with heroic dedication to others or to prayer and virtue – are often excluded from the club. “It costs money to have someone canonized. You have to collect information,” said the Rev. Thomas Reese, a senior fellow at Georgetown University. “And nobody’s going to do that for your mom.” *(The Week magazine, July 19, 2013)* Seventy-eight of the 265 popes have been made saints, including 52 of the first 54 popes. *(CNN.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 19, 2013)***

**Find me one person who is for something and against nothing, who is redeemed enough not to condemn others out of the burden of his soul, and I will find another savior, another Jesus, and an exalted human being. *(Ernest Holmes)***

**In an effort to get back to the original meaning of Halloween – the eve of All Saints’ Day – one church held a Halloween party in which the children of the parish dressed in costumes representing saints. One lad was a puzzle to the people who planned the party. He was dressed in a football uniform. “You mean,” he exclaimed, “you’ve never heard of the New Orleans’ Saints?” *(Tulsa World)***

**A small boy was very perceptive when he looked up at the stained glass windows in church and said: "A saint is a person that light shines through." *(Richard Ruble)***

**Living with a saint is perhaps more grueling than being one. *(Robert C. Neville, in Soldier Sage Saint)***

**One need not be a saint in order to love. But it would appear that only someone who has loved can be a saint. *(Robert Ellsberg)***

**For there is a meeting point of the silences of the spirit with the activities of our social conduct, a common ground from which we may look both to the One and to the many, to the eternal values and to the calls for service in the world of time and place, where inner peace is no less a power than on the remote summits of a mountain or in the saint’s lonely cell. *(Horatio W. Dresser, in Unity magazine)***

**There is no sinner like s young saint. *(Aphra Behn, playwright)***

**When Pope John Paul II is beatified on May 1, it will mark a new “land-speed record for arrival at the final stage before sainthood,” said John Allen Jr. in Newsweek. It’s been only six years since crowds chanted “Santo subito!” – “Sainthood now” – at John Paul’s funeral. But the rush to make the widely respected, Polish-born pope a saint has raised questions for some Catholics, who contend John Paul failed to respond properly to the Catholic Church’s sex-abuse scandal. “How can you be a saint if you fail to protect innocent children?” asked Maureen Dowd in The New York Times. Despite repeated warnings from cardinals and bishops that the crisis was widespread, John Paul buried his head in the sand. He did nothing when informed of multiple sex-abuse allegations against one of his favorite clerics, the Rev. Marcial Maciel Degollado, the founder of the ultra-orthodox Legion of Christ; indeed, he continued to let Maciel accompany him on foreign trips. “Hold the halo” – John Paul has a fatal flaw. What human being is not flawed? said George Weigel in National Review. John Paul had such innocent faith in Maciel and other priests that it took him time to believe the allegations, but once he did, “he took decisive action,” telling American cardinals that “there is no place in the priesthood for those who would harm the young.” Rather than focus on that one sad period, we should focus on John Paul’s life as a whole, said Vincent Carroll in The Denver Post. Growing up in Poland, he resisted the “exterminating jackals of Adolf Hitler” during World War II, helped trigger the peaceful uprising in Poland in the 1980s “that eventually dismantled the Soviet bloc,” and forged new links with other faiths. In his long lifetime and 27-year papacy, John Paul was “the most influential Christian of the past century.” He was also clearly “a man of contradictions,” said Bryan Cones of USCatholic,org. Warm and human in his public appearances, John Paul refused to tolerate dissent from his conservative rollback of the Vatican II reforms, and insisted that only Catholics had access to heaven. That’s not to say that he’s not worthy of sainthood, however, because “business is not the same as perfection.” We honor saints because of their “heroic response to God’s offer of grace, even if that grace” does not overcome the “fatal flaw every hero seems to have.” (The Week magazine, May 6, 2011)**

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**Saints are sinners who kept on trying. *(The Best of BITS & PIECES, p. 136)***

**The mystic or supposed saint sought the presence of God almost as an experience without connection with existence in the external world. Hence there seemed to be no intelligible report of his visions to be carried to mankind in general. (Horatio W. Dresser, in Unity magazine)**

**The way of the world is to praise dead saints and to persecute living ones. *(Nathaniel Howe)***

**The simplest and most effective way to sanctity is to disappear into the background of ordinary everyday routine. *(Thomas Merton)***

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