

November 1, 2025

Daily Reflections



OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN FAITH

By Elisabeth Beall

A Quote

“The saints are like the stars. In his providence Christ conceals them in a hidden place that they may not shine before others when they might wish to do so. Yet they are always ready to exchange the quiet of contemplation for the works of mercy as soon as they perceive in their heart the invitation of Christ.”

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

Reflection

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints – a beautiful feast day, and yet one that many of our brothers and sisters who are not Catholic misunderstand or find perplexing.

Recently I was speaking with a woman who attended one of the Zoom rosary gatherings offered by the Center for Spiritual Development. She is not Catholic, but is eager to learn about other faith traditions. In the course of our conversation, she mentioned how much she's learned about the Catholic faith ... and admitted that the concept of saints was still something she just couldn't wrap her mind around.

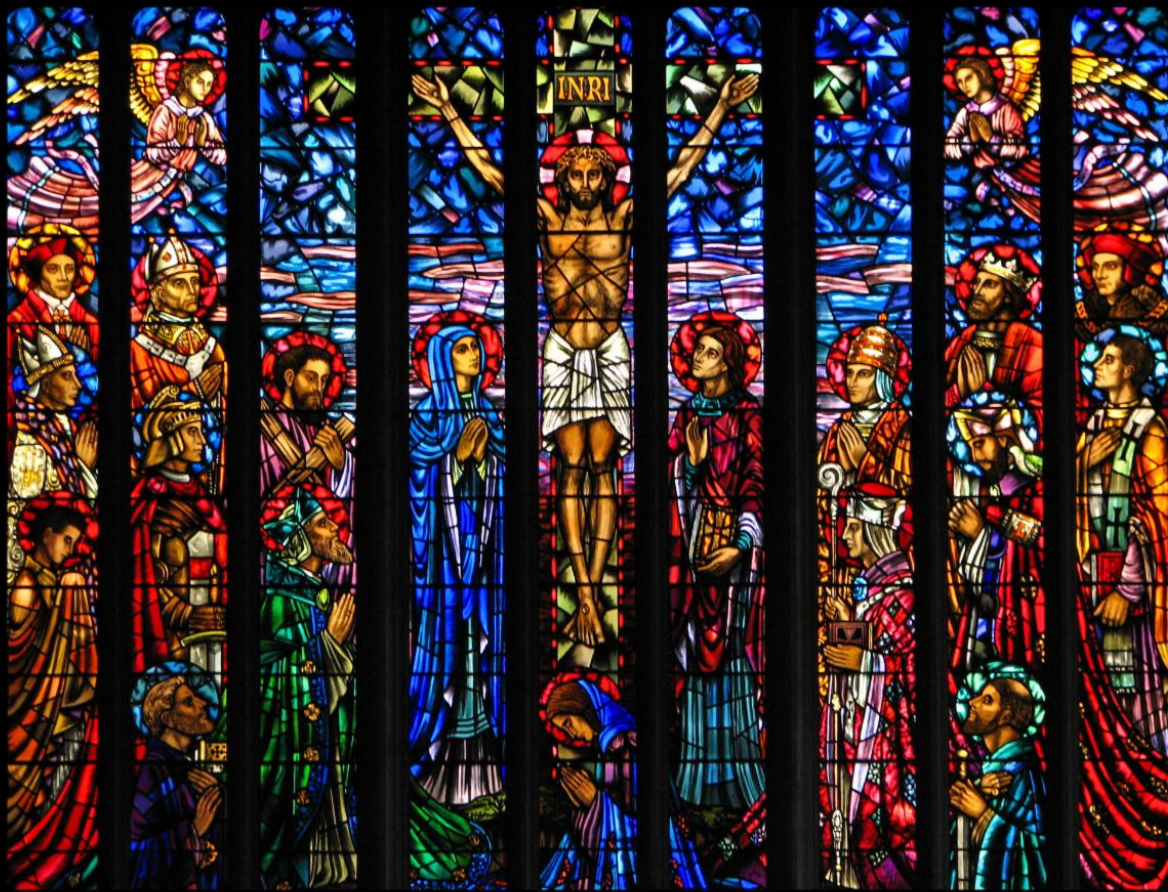
As we continued chatting, I thought I'd share with her something that someone taught me once: that we do not pray *to* saints – just as we do not worship them; but we pray *with* saints, who – after all – were men and women just like us.

“Oh,” she said. “That really helps.”

I could hear in her voice that she was looking at the community of saints in a different way.

I am thankful that there is this community of elders always accessible to me – I can tap into their knowledge, I can cry on their shoulders, I can dial the St. Anthony hotline when I lose my car keys. They are our brothers and sisters in faith, our role models, and our friends. We learn from their bad examples just as much as from the good – if the hedonistic Augustine can undergo such a conversion of heart as to become not only a good man, but an actual saint, then surely there is hope for all of us!

Let us celebrate together with the saints today, and give thanks for their unflagging steps as they walk alongside us, urging us to greater closeness with God.



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For Pondering

- Is the community of saints a gift or a puzzle to you? Why?
 - Is there a particular saint whose story resonates with you, or who you feel particularly close to? What is it about that saint that draws you?
 - How does the community of saints help you grow in your faith journey?
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For Prayer

*Creator God,
I give thanks for the great gift of the community of saints,
Men and women who have attained such holiness
As to become true exemplars
Of what I can do with my life,
Of who I can be.
Help me to journey alongside them,
And closer to you.*

Amen.

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