

By celebrating the memory of all saints, the Church is bringing to our attention that there is an immense number of saints that we do not know about. Only a very small number of saints have been revealed to us. Also, since the Church will exist to the very end of time, people are continually being born who will glorify God with their saintly lives in the future. Through this Sunday's holiday, the Church is glorifying with us the complete number of saints: the revealed, the not revealed, those of the past, the present ones, and those who will achieve sainthood in the future years.

There is another very important reason for the establishment of this Sunday's celebration. The Church wants us to remember the unity of all Her saints. Every day of the year, we are able to acquaint ourselves with the lives of individual saints of the day. It is very easy to become very dedicated to one saint, sometimes even at the rejection of others. We saw this happen already during the life on earth of our Savior when St. John the Baptist had a very difficult time convincing some of His disciples that the time had come for them to leave him and to start following Jesus Christ. By celebrating the memory of all the saints together, the Church is underscoring that all the saints are organs of one unified body which is the Church. Their individual accomplishments were made possible by the power of the one Head of the Church, our Savior, who empowered them with the Grace of the one Holy Spirit.

It is important for our spiritual benefit to learn about the accomplishments of people who became saints. They teach us many things. Their living faith enabled them to overcome all enemies both visible and invisible ones. They were able to survive with patience deep deprivation, hatred, persecution, and torture. Out of their love for the Savior, they willingly denied themselves all earthly attachments and lived exclusively for God. God gifted them with the ability to do great miracles which they selflessly used for the glory of God and for the benefit of people. They teach us that there is nothing that is impossible or too difficult for us in our spiritual life. The only thing that we need to do is to have unyielding faith, strive to live according to God's commandments, and use the Grace that God gives us for His glory. They should serve as our spiritual role models.

How sad it is to see people who know the most intimate details about celebrities, have learned also in great detail about the accomplishments of historic figures, but know nothing about the life of a single saint. Dear brothers and sisters, may this Sunday's holiday inspire us to sincerely desire to enrich ourselves by learning more and more about the true giants of life, the saints of our Church. And may this knowledge inspire us to start emulating them even in a small way at first in our church life. Who knows, if we try hard enough maybe we too will be able to become part of their illustrious company and unite our hearts with our Savior for a glorious blessed eternity. The Grace of the Holy Spirit is freely available. We just need to want it and then use it correctly

With Love in Christ,

Archpriest Serge Kotar