

**NOVEMBER 1, 2009
MATTHEW 5: 1-12A**

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

Who are the saints in your life?

Are they merciful like St. John Vianney who spent his whole day in the confessional consoling those in his village who needed the comfort of God's love?

Do they mourn for our world, saddened by war and violence, disheartened by selfishness and greed, concerned about our misplaced priorities as St. Catherine of Siena did when she mourned for our Church when the Pope thought he should live in personal security in France?

Are they available to be persecuted for the sake of righteousness like St. Maximilian Kolbe and St. Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein) who both endured Nazi concentration camps rather than desert fellow Christians and Jews who were suffering?

Are they clean of heart—choosing to see the good in others, guileless in the face of today's jaded culture, open to the mysteries that God wants us to see every single day—like St. Francis of Assisi who saw the whole of creation as belonging to God, thus belonging to him?

Do they welcome the insults which come to us when we stand up for those who can't stand up for themselves—victims of prejudice, poverty, and powerlessness—like Dorothy Day who melded with those who needed her?

Are they meek—not driven by their ego but free spirits who live from their true self as was Mary of Magdala whose free spirit allowed her to see the risen Jesus?

Do they relish their poverty of spirit rather than rely on their possessions like St. Ignatius of Loyola who came to know that God was all he needed?

And what about you and me? What kind of saints are we these days?

Happy Feast Day!

--Reflection by Sister Diane Langford, CDP