

Dear Brothers and Sisters



Halloween All Saints All Souls

Goblins, demons, monsters... the streets will be filled with children wearing costumes and masks as they go trick or treating this Wednesday October 31st.

'Halloween' comes from 'hallow' and 'een.' 'Hallow' is familiar to us: 'Hallowed be thy name'. 'Hallow' means 'Holy', and 'een' is a derivation of 'eve'; the eve of what is holy, or the eve of all hallows. Halloween is the eve of All Saints Day

Halloween is a preparation, of sorts, for All Saints Day. It is meaningless to celebrate Halloween without celebrating All Saints Day.

No one celebrates Christmas Eve without Christmas,

No one celebrates New Years Eve without New Years Day.

Can you imagine spending Christmas Eve with your family, in the anticipation and excitement of Christmas Day, only to decide not to bother with Christmas. "We won't open the presents after all kids, Christmas Eve was good enough!" Or to go to a New Year's party and leave before midnight, without seeing in the New Year! Unthinkable. The eve is the preparation for the main event. It is the appetizer to the main course. The eve has no meaning in and of itself, but only in relation to that which follows.

In the same way, it should be unthinkable to celebrate Halloween without celebrating All Saints day.

Thursday November 1st, All Saints Day, is our Feast day: we have been created to be Holy and Immaculate, to be saints. Halloween prepares us for All Saints Day by mocking demons, goblins and monsters, in other words, the devil. Scary costumes are worn to poke fun at him. In the middle ages the devil was portrayed with horns and a tail and a pitchfork, a caricature which was meant to ridicule and mock him.

The devil can't stand to be laughed at, he can't stand to be mocked, to be ridiculed. Why? Because he is proud, he is not humble. The proud cannot bear to be made fun of, or to be the butt of a joke. A proud person does not like making mistakes, for fear of being laughed at.

But on Halloween we do precisely that, we mock him, laugh at him. The devil does not want us to be holy, to become saints; but we laugh at him because he has been vanquished, and has no power over us. The grace of God is enough for all of us to fulfill our vocation, to be holy as He is Holy.

Don't do Halloween without All Saints!!

Don't do All Saints without All Souls

Masses for All Saints Day Thurs Nov 1st are 8:30am 12:00 noon and 7:00pm

Masses for All Souls Day Fri Nov 2nd are 8:30am and a special Memorial Mass at 7:00pm, in memory of our brothers and sisters who have died in the past year.

Fr. Sean