

NOVEMBER 1, 2016



SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS



REVELATION 7:2-4, 9-14

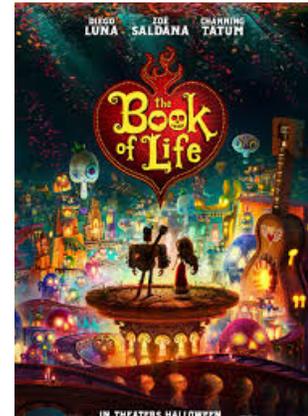
PSALM 24:1BC-2, 3-4AB, 5-6

1 JOHN 3:1-3

MATTHEW 5:1-12A

REFLECTION

My children attend a bilingual school where they celebrate Mexican cultural traditions throughout the year. Each November, in celebration of the Day of the Dead, the students bring photos and mementos of loved ones who have died. Displayed on a colorful table surrounded by marigolds, sugar skulls, and pan de muerto (a Hispanic bread offering), the display becomes a powerful reminder that every life matters and that we remain connected, even after death. We speak of a “thin veil” that separates heaven from earth. The Church sets aside the entire month of November as a time to remember all who have died. We begin this month by celebrating the remarkable lives of those the Church has officially recognized as saints. These real-life men and women have set a high standard for the rest of us by the way they chose to follow God’s call, and we honor them. Sometimes a “saintly life” can seem quite distant from our own ordinary life, and we think we could never be that good. Each of us, in our own unique way, is called to be awesome for God.



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ACTION

Long ago, when most people didn’t know how to read, art told the stories of our heroes in faith, the saints. This week, visit a church and spend some time in front of a painting, stained glass window, or a statue of a saint. Do an Internet search to learn more about his or her life, or check out Robert Ellsberg’s book *All Saints* from the library. Most importantly, ask this saint to pray for and with you. Catholics are sometimes wrongly criticized for “worshipping” or “praying to” saints. We only worship God. But we do ask our beloved dead to intercede by praying for us. Haven’t you asked a living relative to pray for you? Because we believe the dead will be received into heaven, they continue to pray for us to God, even after death. There is a great multitude who have gone before us, our family in faith, and they stand with us as witnesses to God’s eternal love.

All holy men and women pray for us!

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

● Is there a particular saint whose life inspires you? What is it about this saint that appeals to you?