

I. Up here on the right...St. Francis; on the left...St. Anthony

- in front of the altar: the apostles gathered around Jesus at the Last Supper
- now...look a little closer and see there – not them – but you!
- yes! That is a statue of you – you are that statue; you are one of the apostles gathered around Jesus

II. We might smile to ourselves and think – that’s silly – not me! I can’t image a statue of me in church!

- and yet we should...because that’s what this day is all about: we honor all the saints – all the holy ones who have lived as faithful disciples of Jesus
- we honor them - and praise them, not only for the victory they have won, but also because they are our inspiration...they teach us and tell us that sainthood is our call as well

III. In their lifetimes, would they have imagined themselves as a statue? As a picture in a stained glass window? Would they have imagined anyone would read a biography about their life?

They would have laughed just as hard as we do!

And yet – they were ordinary men and women, young and old, soldiers and pacifists, farmers and professors, married and religious, rich and poor, commoners and kings and queens, teachers and learners, many with sordid pasts and others who were always rooted in holiness.

Some lived lives of privilege, many endured hardship and suffering.  
Some were very simple, some were brilliant.

But each one loved Jesus. All loved God with all their heart, all their soul, all their mind and with their whole strength. Each loved their neighbor as themselves. Each sought out to understand and do God’s will.

IV. Each came to understand at some point in their lives what St. John is telling us in the second reading: that we are indeed beloved children of God who are called to one day rejoice in eternal life.

So the next time you peer into a stained glass window, see not the image of a famous saint, but your own image staring back at you. Look up into the ceiling and see in the fresco your own image peering down at you.

Let this day, this celebration of all those ordinary people who sought to follow Jesus be an opportunity for us to renew our own call to holiness.

Tomorrow – when you go to work or school, when you visit with your spouse or go to coffee with a friend, when you have to put up with an annoying co-worker or a rude driver, or simply in the mundane things of everyday life – look for a way to live one or more of the beatitudes:

- standing in solidarity with those who mourn,
- being humble and polite under stress
- seeking to satisfy the hunger and thirst of another
- extending forgiveness to those who wrong you
- trying to work reconciliation between people at odds with one another
- silently enduring criticism because you are Catholic and Christian.....

In all these ways – and many more – let your faith and trust be seen, let the light of Christ be seen in you. In this way, saints are born.

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Fr. Dwayne