



Archdiocesan Program

WHY CATHOLIC?

STRENGTHENING FAITH ... MAKING DISCIPLES



THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

I BELIEVE IN THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS

Biblical Reflection: 1 Cor 12:4-7; 26

The Church is a “communion of saints”: this expression refers first to the “holy things”, above all the Eucharist, by which “the unity of believers, who form one body in Christ is both represented and brought about” (LG 3). (CCC 960)



The term “communion of saints” refers also to the communion of “holy persons” in Christ who “died for all,” so that what each one does or suffers in and for Christ bears fruit for all. (CCC 961)

... “Being more closely united to Christ, those who dwell in heaven fix the whole Church more firmly in holiness... they do not cease to intercede with the Father for us, as they proffer the merits which they acquired on earth through the one mediator between God and men, Christ Jesus... So by their fraternal concern is our weakness greatly helped” (LG 49). (CCC 956)

... “In full consciousness of this communion of the whole Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, the Church in its pilgrim members, from the very earliest days of the Christian religion, has honored with great respect the memory of the dead, and ‘because it is a holy and a wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins’ she offers her suffrages for them” (2 Mcc 12:45). Our prayer for them is capable not only of helping them, but also of making their intercession for us effective. (CCC 958)

“We believe in the communion of all the faithful of Christ, those who are pilgrims on earth, the dead who are being purified, and the blessed in heaven, all together forming one Church; and we believe that in this communion, the merciful love of God and his saints is always [attentive] to our prayers.” Paul VI, *Solemn Profession of Faith*, June 30, 1968. (CCC 962)

Questions for discussion:

- What are the holy things you think the faithful – living and dead—share as common treasures?
- How do you understand that everything that we do, good or bad, that we enjoy or suffer, affect all Christians?
- Think about your relatives, friends or acquaintances that are dead, do you feel that in spite of their death and the time passed, you still have ties with them? Explain your feelings.
- Among the saints familiar to you, is there any of them that you would have loved to know and be friendly with him/her? Why? Do you think you can still get closer to that particular saint in prayer and have he/she as a role model for you to follow in your life?

Further reading: Catechism of the Catholic Church, numbers 946-962