

## HOMILY ALL SAINTS DAY 2018

Oh when the Saints  
Go marching in  
Oh when the Saints go marching in  
Lord I want to be in that number  
When the Saints go marching in.

How many of you here want to be saints? All of us, right? That is what this world is all about right? And we are all saints under construction. The Gospel reading today, the Beatitudes, gives us one blueprint on how we can become saints. And I want to talk about two of them today. The first is: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.” What is righteousness? It is doing what is right. Who is the only one that is right all of the time? God. And he gave us a book, the Bible. When we follow the Bible we will be right. The Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes are just two examples of blueprints for sainthood. If we hunger and thirst for righteousness, we become people of integrity. As I think about the elections next week, I am looking for people of integrity. People who are trying to do the right thing, not what I need to do to get elected, what I need to do to win, what I need to do so that my political party wins. I want to do the right thing. Follow the example that Jesus gave us.

And that brings me to the second beatitude that I want to talk about: “Blessed are the peacemakers.” Peacemakers are those who attempt to resolve conflict. We need more people in the world who will resolve conflict and that starts with each of us. We have many reactions to conflict that do not lead to a resolution. We may just deny the conflict. We may blame the conflict on someone else and say it is their problem. We may just avoid those we are in conflict with. None of those resolves the conflict, it is still there. We can also react with anger. We can just be disrespectful to the people we are in conflict with. We can talk about the people we are in

conflict with behind their back. Or we can just fight until we get our way. None of those reactions resolves the conflict; in fact it just makes it worse.

If we are going to be peacemakers, we need to attempt to resolve the conflict. We need to talk to the people we are in conflict with and really listen to them. We may need to bring in others that can help to resolve the conflict. We need to stop digging in our heels and start compromising. Come to an agreement that we can both live with. Our people in public office need to be able to do that. That is what I am keeping in mind when I vote. We also need to do that.

The Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are closely approaching. Some of us have conflicts with friends and family that we will probably be seeing during these holidays. We need to work to resolve the conflicts we have now so that things will be better this Thanksgiving and Christmas. It will not be better by magic just because it is a holiday.

We all want to be saints. Let's follow God, the one who is always right. Follow the Beatitudes. Hunger and thirst for righteousness. Be a peacemaker.