

In a recent issue of Reminisce magazine, there was an article that focused on the roots of people's names. Readers were invited to send in short descriptions of where their names came from. A number of contributors remembered their catholic parents being told that their baby's name should be after one of the saints. Sadly many parents today have fallen away from that practice and that is a shame. In an age of questionable role models the saints can still be effective in teaching children the ways of goodness and holiness.

The church has a long list of saints and quite a few of them have their own special day in the church calendar. Our feast today really started as a way to celebrate the martyrs whose names are not known. Later this solemnity became a way to celebrate all the saints who are unknown to us; men, women, and children who stayed the course of goodness well enough that they are rewarded with the gift of heaven.

These nameless saints are the real witnesses to the possibility of OUR sainthood. Their anonymity teaches us that sainthood is not reached through great achievement or rare acts of bravery.

Sainthood comes from loving God and doing the best to live our lives in a way consistent with Jesus commandment of love.

In our pursuit of sainthood all we have to do is attach ourselves to God. If we should ever question the possibility of becoming a saint, all we have to do is turn to the Book of Revelation and be reminded that there will be countless multitudes that will be marked with a seal that will identify them as attached to God.

God wants to mark us as one of his own. So what this feast of All Saints is telling us is that sainthood is not something to gain; it is something for us to lose. This day we celebrate the whole communion of saints and we are reminded of our baptismal call to join that communion. We must accept this call and wear our seal of faith with pride.