

But Why Don't YOU Pray To The Saints?

Praying to the Saints, we know, is almost solely a Catholic practice.

Many other people, it seems, regard the practice as silly, futile and even idolatrous. They imagine that all prayers must be addressed directly to God, and that there is no need for such intercessors and mediators as Saints. Indeed, some seem to think Catholic veneration of the Saints is in opposition to the doctrine that Christ is the one Mediator between God and man.

If it is hard for others to understand why Catholics pray to the Saints, it is equally hard for Catholics to understand why other Christians do *not* so pray. It is a custom which has been observed in the Church since the time of the Apostles. Its merits are clearly indicated in both the Old Testament and the New, and Catholics can testify that God listens with special favor to prayers addressed to Him in our behalf by His friends, the Saints.

It sounds illogical to Catholics to recite in the Apostles' Creed, "I believe in... the Communion of Saints..." and then to scoff at prayer to the Saints. The difficulty, it seems to us, is that there is confusion concerning just what the Saints are and what the Catholic attitude toward them is.

Belief in the Saints depends upon the conviction that we can help one another with our prayers. Catholics have no doubt about this. We read, for example, in Genesis, God's instructions to Abimelech to ask Abraham to pray for him: "He shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live (Genesis 20:7, 17)."

God had mercy on the children of Israel because Moses prayed for them. At another time God said "...and my servant Job shall pray for you; for him I will accept" (Job 42:8). The new Testament

contains equally convincing testimony. St. Paul asks repeatedly for the prayers of the faithful. In the Epistle of St. James, we find: "And pray one for another, that ye may be healed" (James 5:16).

If God heeds the prayers offered by sinful mortals in behalf of one another, how much more surely will he listen to his friends, the Saints in Heaven, who are in a position to know the needs expressed in our prayers to them? If the individual appeal "of one for another" is heard in Heaven, how much more certainly will God hearken to the swelling chorus of prayer rising up from the "communion of the faithful" in Heaven and on earth? And if the Saints in Heaven are not concerned for us, why should there "be joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth" (Luke 15:10)?

If you want to know more about the Saints and how they can help you, write today for our Free Pamphlet entitled: "But Why Don't YOU Pray To The Saints?" It will be mailed in a plain wrapper. Nobody will call on you. Ask for Pamphlet FM-47.



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Quips and



Quotes

How to Be Happy Though Married

"Don't criticize" is the Golden Rule You learn in matrimonial school. It goes for husbands and for wives And keeps things pleasant all their lives. So, mates, don't hoot about her hats, His taste in comics or cravats— Leastways in public. It won't do! (Though, darling, just between us two...)

—Ethel Jacobson

Football's Immortal Blocking Back

The best interference that I ever saw Was supplied by a guy with the knack of Being alert to each play in the game. No, I'm afraid that I don't know his name— He's the gent I was sitting in back of.

—Dick Emmons

All the employees of a clock company were ordered to assemble in the plant meeting room. Facing them were their red-faced boss and two angry-looking strangers.

"I'm Harris of the FBI," one stranger said curtly.

"I'm Miller of the Post Office," snapped the other.

"All right, you guys," they both said, "who's the joker winding the clocks before they're mailed?"

—Frances Benson

If you want to write something that will live forever, sign a mortgage.

—Jack Herbert

The bus was just pulling away when the woman behind the driver tapped him on the shoulder. "A lady just missed the bus," she said. "Don't you think you should stop?"

Without a word the driver halted the bus, opened the door, and waited patiently for the tardy woman to board. Another passenger was astonished. "Why, such a thoughtful driver!" he said. "I've never seen one so courteous."

"Courteous, my eye," replied a sour-looking straphanger. "That's his wife sitting behind him."

—Charles Ruffing

A weary traveler found that his wrist watch had stopped, so he pulled his auto up before some children playing in the street. "Say, son, could you tell me what time it is?"

One of the boys looked at his Mickey Mouse watch. "Twelve o'clock," he answered.

"Twelve o'clock!" the traveler exclaimed. "I thought it was more than that."

"It's never more than that around here," the boy explained. "Goes up to twelve o'clock, then starts all over again."

—A. W. Stinson

Winning friends are the kind who are seldom invited back to the weekly poker game.

—Kenneth J. Shively



"Most of our arguments are over money."