

On the Feast of All Saints

My dear Brothers and Sisters. We celebrate today the feast of all Saints. And of course, we also celebrate the feast of our All Saints church and community. I remember when we made our new Parish together, we needed a new name for the church. The majority vote was All Saints, and that included my vote also thinking, we need all the help we can get. And it was a very good and providential choice, we have a wonderful and vibrant community of faithful Sisters and Brothers.

Today we celebrate the feast of All the Saints. Not just those who are canonized, but all the saints in heaven and on earth, and all the ones through our long past centuries of history. All the Saints who have done and do the best they can in loving and caring service for each other and for the Kingdom of God. How many are they? Only God can count them.

My Sisters and Brothers. I would like to share with you a true story. It happened to me on the way from Le Moyne to our church, as I was driving on Meadow Brook to say the 11:30 mass. My custom is that I pray for all my relatives and friends in my love and care, for those who asked me to pray for them, and for those I know they are in great need. This takes about all the driving time from Le Moyne College to our church. Not so long ago, I read in the paper that an 8-years-old little Florida girl, abducted while shopping with her mother, was found dead in a wooded area near Jacksonville. Her name is Charish Perrivinkle. A lovely name. She was raped and killed by a known sex offender Donald James Smith, who was arrested shortly after.

Driving on Meadow Brook I prayed and cried for her. I wanted to hug and console her, and to heal the terrible wounds she suffered. This went on for a couple of weeks. Then all has been changed. Instead of praying for her with tears, I was invited to pray with her for Mr. Smith. I realized that God has healed her beyond all measures. Now she is my best little friend in heaven. She is my help, my joy, my encouragement. We do something wonderful together in prayer every day.

My Sisters and Brothers, when we pray together the Apostles' Creed we say: I believe in the Communion of Saints. The many, many Saints. They are very close to us, and they are our help and consolation. How many are they? Only God can count them.

We believe in the Communion of Saints, and Life Everlasting. Amen.



Charish Perrivinkle