



Essential Evangelization

Too Much Gore?

Isn't it really a bit much to see all of our neighborhoods decorated with all the gore of skulls, grave stones, skeletons, witches, black cats, vampires and the like? Doesn't it give you the creeps? We celebrate Halloween next Saturday - it has become the second biggest decorating holiday in America.

Now we may not want to be a killjoy for the excited kids this time of year, but why all the fascination with gore and death? Halloween, like many other present day commercial holidays, really stemmed from earlier religious holy days. All Hallows Eve was traditionally the eve of All Saints Day, celebrated on November 1st. Did you know that the word Hallow stood for a holy person? Traditions of days gone by included dressing up as your favorite saint and going door to door to collect food for the poor, and the hollowed out turnip with a candle inside originally commemorated the souls in purgatory. Somewhere along the way the holiday went secular\ commercial and turned to an emphasis on death and collecting goodies for ourselves. Satan has a way of getting into everything!

The real celebration should be our great Catholic saints in heaven! We have Mary and Joseph, Sts Peter and Paul and a litany of patron and a host of many other great saints in our Catholic Church. They are now with Christ rooting for our Church and us too - all we need do is to pray to them for intercession and help in our present need. Now some may say why pray to Mary and the Saints when we can go straight to God? But doesn't it make even more sense to ask them that are alive in Christ and close to our heavenly father to pray for us then to ask our earthly friends and acquaintances?

Wouldn't it be great if more of us celebrated and decorated "**life**" more! How about a manger scene on your front lawn this Christmas? Better yet, how about decorating our homes and lawns with the risen Christ next Easter! Let's do it!!!

*This is one of a series of articles on
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