



Essential Evangelization

The Communion of Saints

In the Gospel, Jesus prays that "they (we) may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you." Unfortunately however, in the 20 centuries that separates us from the birth of Christ, there has been a splintering of our Christian brothers and sisters. We are no longer one as Jesus had prayed. Starting with the Council of Ephesus in 431, the Great Schism of the 11th century and finally the Reformation in the 16th century, can you believe that there are now over 38,000 Christian denominations?

One of the really neat things about being Catholic however is our Communion of Saints. It is really awesome that we can trace back our religious "ancestry" roots to the original apostles and the first pope, St. Peter. We have saints with a big "S" such as our Blessed Mother, Saint Joseph, Saint Paul, Saint Theresa of Lisieux, Saint Francis of Assisi, St. Ignatius, St. Thomas Aquinas and our very own Saint Thomas a Becket. What a wonderful history we have! But did you also know that there are also saints with a little "s"? Those are our family, friends and loved ones who, in faith, lived a life of love in Christ and have gone on before us. They too have joined the choir of heaven, and with prayer, can root and pull for us in this life too. Even though they have left this earth in bodily form, their love, and our love for them remains.

Many people have even reported "miraculous" visions or "coincidences" that are signs of comfort and peace that our loved ones have made it to their heavenly home. Flowers, rainbows, visions, and even "pennies from heaven" have been claimed to be the work of miracles of peace and comfort to those who have lost love in this life.

But real Love is eternal and lives on with our loved ones in heaven. Love never fails and never ends. Do you have the love of Jesus?

*"So faith, hope, and love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is **love**."
1 Corinthians 13: 13*

*This is one of a series of articles on
Evangelization from the
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