

LESSON 30: THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS

Jesus taught us that death is not the end of life, rather Death is the doorway to Heaven. Jesus made this possible by His Sacrifice on the Cross, destroying death and earning us the right to live forever. People who live with God in Heaven are called saints. They have earned their heavenly reward.

Some of the greatest saints in Heaven, like Mary Magdalen, St. Paul and St. Augustine, were sinners for a long time but each one finally turned to God. This love turned them from great sinners into great saints.

People who love God and die in His friendship are not fully ready for Heaven. They first go to Purgatory to be cleansed of their sins. We can help the souls in Purgatory reach Heaven faster by offering our Masses, prayers, and Sacrifices for them.

The saints in Heaven, the souls in Purgatory, and the members of the Church on earth make up the whole family of God's people. We call our one great family the Communion of Saints.

“Our hearts are made for You, O Lord, and will not rest until they rest in You.” (St. Augustine)

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him.” (1 Cor 2:9)

Words to know:

Purgatory: the place where a soul goes to be made clean from all venial sin and receive the punishment due to sins already forgiven before it can go to Heaven.

Communion of Saints: the unity of all the members of the Church here on earth with those in Heaven and in Purgatory.

Last Judgement: the event at the end of the world at which God will judge our lives.

Questions and Answers

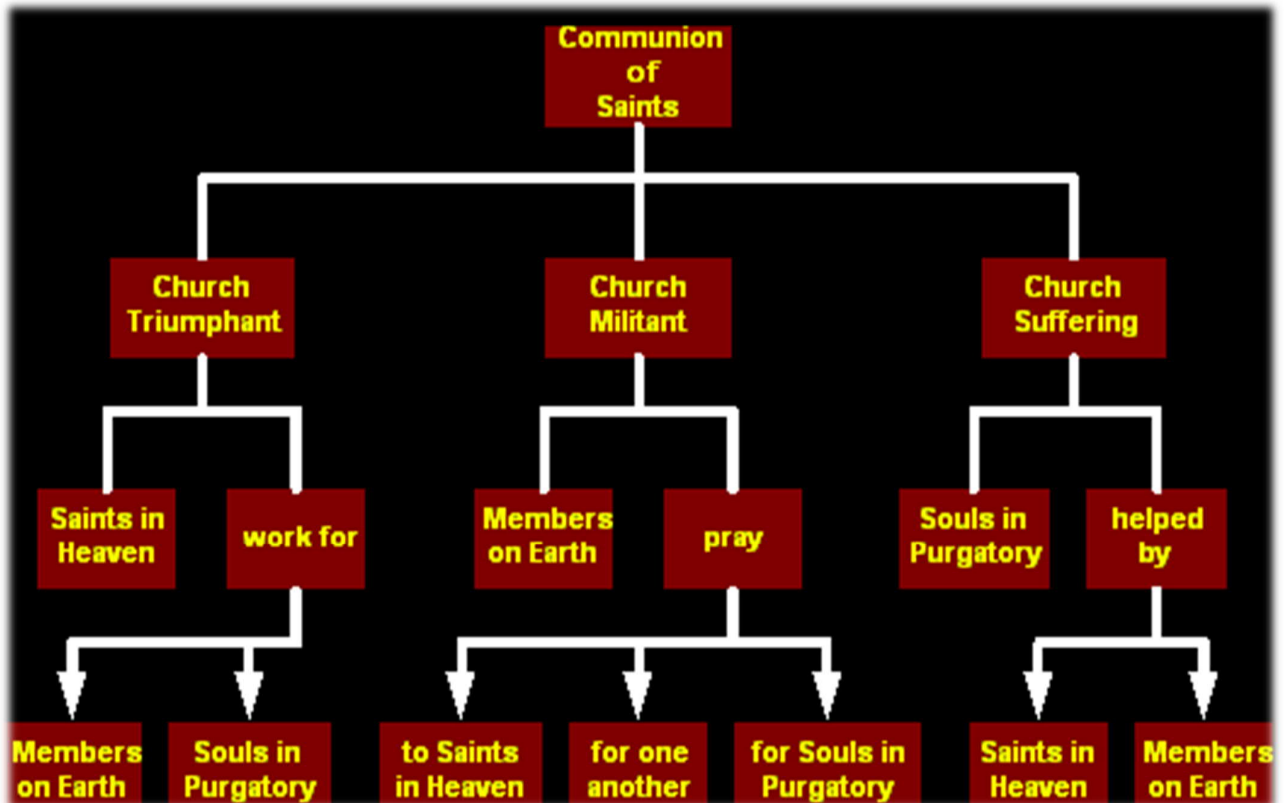
1	<p><i>What does “Communion of Saints” mean?</i> The Communion of Saints means that all the faithful who form one single body in Jesus Christ, share in all the good that exists and is done in this same body, namely, in the universal Church.</p>
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Choose the correct answer and fill in the blanks:

(Cross, sins, Heaven, Communion, saints, Purgatory, death)

1. Jesus taught us that _____ is not the end of life, rather Death is the doorway to _____.
2. Jesus made this possible by His Sacrifice on the _____.
3. People who live with God in Heaven are called _____.
4. Purgatory is a place to be cleansed of our _____.
5. We can help the souls in _____ reach Heaven faster by offering our Masses, prayers and Sacrifices for them.
6. We call our one great family the _____ of saints.

COMMUNION OF SAINTS



The Communion of Saints is the unity and cooperation of the members of the Church on earth with those in Heaven and those in Purgatory, all of whom are united in the one Mystical Body of Christ.