

**Fr. Nick Dant's Homily, Saint Matthew Catholic Church, Indianapolis Oct. 24-25, 2020, Cycle A
Solemnity of All Saints, Nov. 1, 2020, Cycle A**

In the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles, one can contemplate 25 tapestries that depict 135 wonderfully diverse saints. These holy people, black, white, brown, male, female, young and old, appear in all their beautiful humanity, representing every era of our Christian history and myriads of ministries and professions of life. Silently, those saints on those 25 tapestries accompany the living who pray in the Cathedral, reminding those in prayer that we do not pray alone. We belong to a great communion of Saints, those who have gone before us through the doors of death, and living now. Those tapestries of the Saints remind us that whenever we come together for public Christian liturgy, those who have gone before us join us in our prayer.

The First Letter of John tells us: "We are God's children now;" what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is!

Isn't that amazing!? "We shall be like Him." In other words we have been invited to become like God. As those tapestries in Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral remind, and the First Letter of John reminds, we are all called to sainthood.

You know, there are many events that people would do anything to attend. Many would do anything to go to a presidential inaugural ball; most everybody would give almost their soul for a ticket to the Super Bowl or the World Series, or even an installation of a pope.

A presidential ball, a Super Bowl game, the World Series, and a papal installation are all very different, but each is a momentous occasion, and invitations are hard to come by! One has to have "connections" in order to get an invitation – to be "in the loop" of the movers and shakers.

Today, with the great Solemnity of all Saints, we celebrate the most momentous event of all time – the great gathering of the Saints in God's Kingdom – and we have all been sent an invitation – as the Book of Revelation puts it: "The invitation is to all men and women from every nation, race, people and tongue." All are invited to become like God, and see God as he is. We have all been invited to join the Feast of the Saints.

And, what kind of ticket does one need to get into this celebration? The same ticket that has been used by holy men and women of every age to get into the eternal banquet: Living the beatitudes, simply put, walking in the footsteps of Jesus is our ticket!

The Beatitudes do not make impossible demands of us! The Beatitudes basically call upon us to be honest with ourselves and to recognize that without God we are indeed poor in Spirit, to recognize our need to be meek and humble, for we do not have all the answers, to recognize our need to show mercy to others and ourselves, and our need to hunger and thirst for righteousness, for without righteousness or justice, we will never be satisfied, to recognize our need to work for peace, for we know how desperate we are to be sons and daughters of God – to be saints.

Those who live the Beatitudes have access to God; they can ascend the mountain of the Lord and join those who stand before the Throne of the Lamb – that countless number of men, women, boys, and girls of all races, ethnic background and languages, from all ages and places who are all the Saints of God. The invitation has been issued, and the ticket has been sent. Will we accept, as countless numbers already have?