

Nov. 6, 2016 “The Ongoing Line of Saints”

General description of All Saints Sunday. Remember members who have died since last year. Reminder of how important they are to our faith. Realize that we're not 'self-made', but products of previous generations.

- Roland Bainton story of Timothy Dwight the younger and benediction at commencement each year.
- Majorities – nameless dead of the past and unborn legions of the future. We the living are a thin minority who briefly hold God's scepter of light.

The hymn we sang, “For all the saints, who from their labors rest” reminds us that we are connected to those who have passed before us.

- Think of your own life, from whom did you learn compassion, voluntary service, virtues of honesty and hardwork, sportsmanship, courage, acceptance, forgiveness, and so forth?
- We are part of a long line, going back to Mary and Joseph and the Lord Jesus, the apostles, early Church Fathers, reformers, to a more modern group like Dietrich Bonhoffer and Mother Teresa, and the millions of nameless, non-descript, common people like ourselves.
- As we remember these saints, we realize our own sainthood and obligation we have to pass on the faith.

We are thankful this day for all who have witnessed the faith to us, and for the opportunity we have to share it with others. Sainthood is not as far off as we might think. Do not fail to thank God for the saints who have influenced you, and “Go and do likewise!”