

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

What would YOU say if someone asked you to describe what *Christian Faith* means?

When we are younger, *Faith* means mostly the *Beliefs we had about God, Jesus, the Bible and The Christian Life* – but as we grow toward maturity we realize that *Faith* means not only BELIEF but ACTION, too. In other words, no matter how many creeds we recite or how many scriptural beliefs we memorize, unless we ACT upon those creeds and beliefs by the way we live – then we lack real Christian *FAITH!*

SAINTS are persons who have acted upon their Christian beliefs – and through their actions, grew and changed and became more and more like Christ. Pick out one of these SAINTS to tell about:

Augustine (354-430)

Bernard of Clairvaux (1090?-1153)

Francis of Assisi (1181?-1226)

Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

Thomas a Kempis (1380?-1471)



Savonarola (1452-1498)

Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

John Wesley (1703-1791)

Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965)

The really exciting part of the Christian Faith is that you and I – by putting God FIRST in all we say and do – may become like *Saints* and share in their divine fellowship. Just as the saints through history used their lives in different ways for God's service, so the responsibilities that we fulfill will be different: Some of us will be teachers; some – writers; some – preachers; some – business men and women; some – scientists and engineers; some – soldiers or space pilots; and some – mothers who raise children to love and serve God!

Ralph Vaughan-Williams is one of the 20th century's best known church musicians. Has your choir sung THE OLD HUNDREDTH tune he arranged for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth? Dr. Vaughan-Williams wrote most of his tunes to be sung in UNISON with the HARMONY coming from the accompaniment. Listen to the rhythm of *Sine Nomine* and notice the REST and TIED NOTES. See if you can count the tricky rhythm of the Alleluia:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

See if you can find this text set to the tune named SARUM. Which do you think best fits the spirit of the words?

One thing for sure...the life of the Saints was never DULL...and a life of FAITH for each of us will be an exciting adventure too!