

**It has been said that there are more saints in heaven than stars
in the sky**

Have you ever had the opportunity to see how many stars there are?

I was driving across Ohio one winter night

There had been an ice storm

No ground light from farms or towns

No moon

Only stars

Millions of them

And that is only what could be seen with the naked eye

The universe is so vast that there are many we cannot see

Some are very bright, and jump out at you

Some not so much, and are almost hidden

Kind of like the saints

There are those we notice

Mother Theresa

John Paul II

John XXIII

Aquinas, Augustine, Paul, Peter

Others not so well known

Cadoc, Kiara, Quadratus, and Zeno

Saints listed under every letter of the alphabet

But these are just the saints that have been recognized by the Church

But the Church doesn't make saints

Saints are formed by God's grace

Living lives that forged through suffering in this life

Like the Claude Newman story in the last issue of the Catholic Times

Lives and stories no one ever hears about

Like the newly named saints; Louis and Zélie Martin, spouses

These are the parents of St Theresa of Liseaux

In naming them saints,

The Church has created a new category of saints

In addition to martyrs, confessors, doctors, virgins etc.

There is now the category of spouses

Recognizing that the vocation of marriage is a path to holiness

A path to sanctity for the couple

How many more couples are enjoying heaven right now as spouses

Those whose lives on earth were hidden from any public view

Whose holiness is known to God and the angels in heaven

This is what we celebrate in our feast today

All saints day is a recognition of all the souls in heaven

Those that have shown us the path

For every vocation and every way of life

There is a saint we can emulate

They are there to intercede for us

They are there to help us through difficult times

First and foremost among all the saints, showing us the path

Mary, the Mother of God

But also, our mother

She shows us how to trust in God's will

And how to offer our lives to His call

The humility and strength of a young girl

Giving her '*fiat*'; her 'yes' to the Angel Gabriel

Her '*fiat*' continues to this day

As our mother

Interceding and showing the way

Encouraging us to say 'yes'

To offer up my pride, my self-control, my self-determination

Surrendering to God in freedom and strength

Mary lived this total surrender in generosity and service

Becoming the mother of Jesus and the mother of Christ

Unconditional commitment to serve her family in this life

Going to visit Elizabeth immediately after the Annunciation

Serving her neighbors and friends

When at the wedding at Cana

Recognizing the plight of the couple

Desiring to keep them from any embarrassment

Telling the servants to do whatever Jesus tells them

Serving the disciples after Christ was risen from the dead

Being with them in the upper room

Interceding as they waited for the Holy Spirit to come upon them

This role continues to this day as well

Read the story of Claude Newman in the Catholic Times

And listen to his words to Father O'Leary

'Whenever you have a request, ask me

And I will ask her'

Mary's entire life was spent in love and devotion to her son

She loved him as her son and as her savior

And she loves each of us as her son or daughter

We read in John's account of the passion:

When Jesus saw his mother and his disciple whom he loved

He said to his mother:

Behold, your son

Then he said to his disciple

Behold, your mother

Mary's love for her son is an example of our love for one another

She will help attain the graces we need through her son

Always pointing us to him

Drawing us closer to his Sacred Heart

Through her immaculate heart

We don't need to be theologians to know the saints

We need humility and trust

To read the Beatitudes through the eyes of Mary

To be connected to Christ through the life of Mary, queen of all saints

Pope Saint John Paul II once wrote:

"From Mary we learn to surrender to God's Will in all things.

From Mary we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone.

From Mary we learn to love Christ her Son and the Son of God!"

This is our path through this life

To our eternal destiny

Joining in the Choir of Saints ourselves

Not as a distant star

But as a beloved son or daughter of a loving Father