

Convent 2016

Vigil lights are placed before the icons of the saints, according to Saint Symeon the New Theologian, as a way of showing that without the Light, Who is Christ, the saints are nothing. It is only as the light of Christ shines on them, and through them, that they become alive and resplendent.

The saints show us what a glorious destiny we have in God, and through the example of their lives, point the way to you and I becoming, “partakers of divine nature.” The saints, as the cloud of witnesses in heaven, are present with us in the divine services, worshiping the Holy Trinity with us. They, as our friends, intercede before the Throne of God on our behalf, having won the good fight, we are encouraged by the memory and example of their lives, as we struggle on our own path to God.

It has been said that there are two kinds of people in the world: sinners who think they are saints, and saints who know they are sinners. A saint is a Christian who lets God’s light shine through, and who’s life has been transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We venerate the Saints as we seek their intercession with God, but we adore and worship only God in Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The interior walls of our Churches and Chapels are adorned with the icons, statues, and frescoes of the saints as a reminder that we are surrounded by the cloud of witnesses, the saints, and that the Church Militant (here on earth), is not separated from the Church Triumphant (in

heaven). In Christ, death does not divide us, for the saints are not dead, but alive in Christ Jesus.

Jean-Baptiste-Marie Vianney, Parish Priest of Ars, in France, Patron of all Parish Priests, whose memory we keep today said:

"We have a noble task: that of prayer and love. To pray and to love, that is our vocation and happiness on earth". St Curé OPN.

Glory to Jesus Christ, Who is glorified in His saints.