



"To God the Holy Spirit I consecrate and sacrifice my whole being and every moment of my life."
Bl. Maria Helena SSps

Through our baptism we have been called to be Christians, we have become members of the universal church. As a matter of fact, God has invited us to be a part of his household. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit God has given us the power to become God's children. God longs for us to be His beloved children and graces us with gifts that could help us to get close to him.

We begin this month with a beautiful celebration of All Saints Day. On that day and throughout the whole month we honor all those who have gone before us in faith. We rejoice with them and hope to be one day reunited with them. We bring to our attention those whose lives have inspired us to move beyond ourselves. Together as one family of God we celebrate our faith connections that bind us together. Often we take some time to reflect on the lives of those who have gone before us and we see that their purpose in life was to fulfill God's will to the end.

It is true, sainthood is our primary vocation. As Christians we are to attend to the poor, the meek, be merciful to those who are looking for mercy, to be peacemakers in our environment. All those who have gone before us already attained that goal and we hope they live united with God forever. Actually many of our ancestors in faith achieved sainthood through the works of mercy like some women and men who gave their lives for the poor.

We are still on the way as we encounter the poor, the meek, those who are looking for mercy and forgiveness. We well know that each day brings us more opportunities to help us attain our goal of perfect happiness with God. We are also very much aware of the fact that our responses to those daily challenges and invitations shape our future.

At the end of November we are also going to celebrate the life of a person who inspired so many young people to go and make the Good News of God a reality in the world. Mother Maria Helena Stollenwerk was a simple maid who worked for many years in the mission house and who, filled with hope, was waiting for the day when she would be able to go to share the Gospel with others. Though never able to be involved in missionary work in a foreign country, by her dedication and love for others she has inspired many people throughout the world. By reflecting on her life many young people were drawn to that same

courage to face the unknown in a foreign land.

Have you been inspired by the faithfulness in loving of Mother Maria or someone else who already is with God?

Do you aspire to that same faithfulness?

How can you with your particular gifts are called to lead a life of dedication?

"Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed."

(1John3: 2)