

POCKET PRAYERS FROM

*Living***Faith**

MODERN-DAY
SAINTS



INTRODUCTION

Truly, dear friends, the saints are the best interpreters of the Bible. As they incarnate the word of God in their own lives, they make it more captivating than ever, so that it really speaks to us.

Pope Benedict XVI

It can certainly be challenging to hear the call of Jesus, try to understand it and, even more so, to connect it to my life in the 21st century.

The saints can help.

When I look to the saints, I see human beings of every era and from every part of the world. I see men, women and children from every social class and ability. I see wildly different personalities, from the bold to the painfully shy, from practical administrator to artist.

And in them all, I see Christ. Because they have conformed themselves to him and he shines forth in them, by being close to the saints, I am drawn closer to Christ.

In their lives and witness, I also see another important truth—that Jesus does indeed call every person to follow him. And every person can say “yes.” They show me that holiness is not found only in spectacular deeds, but in letting my heart and mind be shaped by Christ and acting on it in the small moments of daily life. They show me that following Jesus is indeed possible. The saints help me understand the gospel and, most importantly, how to live it, even in the modern age.

—Amy Welborn

Creative
Communications
Sample

St. John Paul II (1920–2005)

Blessed are you who are now weeping,
for you will laugh.

Luke 6:21

Even judging by the world's standards, Pope John Paul II was "great." He was a charismatic leader, an important thinker and a history-changing political force.

But none of those qualities, as positive as they can be, indicate sanctity, and John Paul himself would be the first to say so. Sanctity is about conforming one's whole life to Christ, which is why Catholics honor, among many others on the margins, a homeless pilgrim like St. Benedict Labre as a saint.

The "greatness" of a saint lies in living out the virtues of faith, hope and charity in exemplary ways. And, yes, we see that in John Paul II, perhaps no more profoundly than in his suffering.

For as John Paul II aged, he did so publicly and

without guile, taking us on this journey of suffering with him. He wrote an encyclical about suffering where he stated, “Christ does not explain in the abstract the reasons for suffering, but before all else he says: ‘Follow me!’ Come! Take part through your suffering in this work of saving the world, a salvation achieved through my suffering! Through my Cross.”

Jesus, in your suffering, I see love.

Love for me, love for the entire broken world.

I join my own sufferings, great and small, to yours.

Your will be done.

Pope St. John Paul II, pray for us!

St. André Bessette (1845–1937)

The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed...

Matthew 13:31

My life is so often oriented toward the future. Life will be better when this time of trouble is past, I'll be happier when I've achieved the next step in my life. Is it Friday yet?

But what about now? The present seems so limited, cramped and defined by circumstances, but it's not. For this is where God lives.

Brother André Bessette was limited. He couldn't be a priest, he almost couldn't join the religious order he felt called to join, and he couldn't read or write.

But he could do this: He could sit at the door of Notre Dame College in Montreal, welcoming people. He could listen to them, recite the Beatitudes, which he had memorized, and he could pray with the sick for healing. And through his stubborn faithfulness to serving God in the present moment, he could work to build an enormous oratory to St. Joseph that rises above Montreal today.

Jesus invites me now, in the midst of my life in the present moment. What is my response?

God of Wisdom and healing, I know there is
nothing to wait for.

You dwell among us, you call us now.

May I have the courage to serve you today.

St. André Bessette, pray for us!

St. Teresa of Calcutta (1910–1997)

Lord, when did we see you hungry...?

Matthew 25:37

How do I know what Jesus is calling me to do right here, in the particulars of my own life, right now?

The life of St. Teresa of Calcutta teaches us much about this—about discernment. Open to whatever it was Christ wanted, her life took dramatic turns, from teaching wealthy girls to tending to the dying poor on the streets.

Very often, we want to make our decisions about life based on our emotions and our sense of security and satisfaction. St. Teresa's profound, decades-long struggles with spiritual dryness teach us something different, even radical—our feelings are not the issue.

In the pages of this little treasury, readers will learn more about the fascinating men and women who became saints in our time. Readers will be drawn closer to some of the Church's most recent saints, allowing them to meet those who have walked among us, providing shining examples of how to follow the Lord each and every day.



This book, along with many other Creative Communications for the Parish products, is available on **amazon**kindle and **nook**
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