



Year of Faith: Halloween's Christian Roots

Halloween, literally "All Hallows Eve", marks the vigil celebration of the Feast of All Saints. This feast honors those men and women who have "fought the good fight and finished the race" (2 Tim 4:7) of discipleship and now rejoice in heaven with God for all eternity. Their example provides a living witness for following Christ, and a sense of hope, that we too, will spend eternity with God. The Feast of All Saints was moved to its current location in 835 to Christianize the pagan feast of the dead, also celebrated on that day.

As our neighborhoods gear up to celebrate Halloween, here are a two things to help us keep the holiday a "hallowed" one and go deeper in our faith.

Recall the witness of past lives, and look to living holiness now: The first celebrations of Halloween recalled the martyrs who died in witness to the faith, but later included all those who lived a good Christian life. Recalling the example of the saints should spur us on to living lives of holiness now.
Action: Find a saint who inspires you to live a holier life.

Trick or Treat forgiveness: During the Middle Ages, if someone you had a disagreement with died before you could be reconciled to each other, the common belief was that they would come back to haunt you by playing tricks on you. You could avoid the tricks, if you left a treat for the spirit—hence the phrase—"Trick or Treat". **Action:** Don't wait until someone dies to forgive them—give them the treat of forgiveness, today!

Correlation to the Religion Course of Study

Religion Course of Study
Task I.E.-Christian Thought and Culture

Helpful Resources*

Elementary

[How Can I Celebrate Halloween?](#) (DVD 1259) 23 min Grades: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, PreK

[A Circle of Saints: Stories and Activities for Children Ages 4-8](#) (BK SAGEN NEUBA 2009) Grades: 1-2, PreK

Middle School

[Old Mother Witch](#) (VTE 2308) 26 min Grades: 5-6

[The Heroes and Heroines Series](#) (DVD 1443) 33 min total Grades: 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

High School/Adult

[Saints' Gallery Volume I-V](#) (DVD 1162-1163-1164)

[My Life with the Saints](#) (BK SAGEN MARTJ 2006)

[My Best Teachers Were Saints: What Every Educator Can Learn from the Heroes of the Church](#) (BK SASPE SWETS 2006)

* These resources and many others can be borrowed from the Diocesan media library, contact [Sue](#) or [Martha](#) for details