

As we enter this season of Lent we are reminded to attempt to increase our holiness and, concomitantly, reduce our imperfect habits.

The individuals that have been able to do this the best are, of course, the Saints. Being called a Saint is an official proclamation of the Church that an individual is in heaven united with God. Their lives are meant to be a model for us to aspire in our attempt to become closer to God. That doesn't mean that they are the only ones in heaven — just the official ones.

A good reference if you are interested in Saints is "Butlers Lives of the Saints." For example today, March the 5th, is the feast day of St. John Joseph of the Cross.

Another reference can be found on the internet: "Catholic Online." To my surprise when I went there I found that not only St. John Joseph was celebrated today but also about twelve other Saints: Piran, Adrian, Virgilius, Theophilus, Caron, Carthach, Colman, Eusebius, Germasimus, Kieran, Oliva, and Phocas.

Whoa.

But, indeed, since we are asked to emulate their lives let us briefly examine them.

St. Phocus fed the poor from the products of his own garden and was eventually martyred.

St. Adrian was a military saint.

St. Virgilius promoted reform in the Church.

St. Piran was an Irishman who was said to float on the sea when they tried to kill him.

St. Theophilius kept his faith despite being tortured.

St. Carthach founded a monastery in Ireland

St. John Joseph of the Cross was a Franciscan who was known for multiple miracles of healing and even the multiplication of food.

St. Kieran taught the animals of the forest such as foxes, badgers, and wolves.

St. Germasimus gave away his wealth to become an ascetic and was famous for pulling a thorn from the foot of a lion which tamed it.

So...today March the 5th let us dedicate ourselves to emulate the Saints. Let **us** grow a garden and feed the poor, join the military, try to reform the Church, attempt to float on the sea, keep the faith while being tortured, start a monastery, perform miracles, teach the animals of the forest, and pull a thorn from the foot of a lion.

Don't be discouraged — the night is still young and, after all, we are the Knights of Columbus.