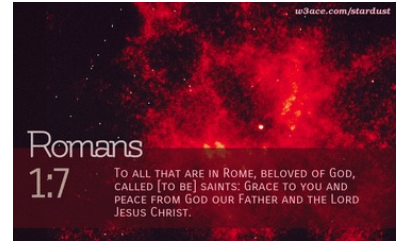


Dear Families of Gilead Bible Church,

In September of this year, when Pope Francis visited this country, he took time out to canonize Junipero Serra as the newest *Catholic saint*. Junipero Serra was an 18th century Spanish Franciscan priest who created the first Catholic missions in California in 1769. He is also credited with ushering in Catholicism in California. ¹



One of the key elements for Pope Francis to consider was whether or not there was evidence that he performed at least two miracles. The first ascribed to Serra was his healing of a lupus patient who had prayed to him. Pope Francis aided his cause by declaring Serra's life's work to be the second miracle ² and with that, he canonized Junipero Serra as the newest *Catholic saint*.

Why is the emphasis on miracles? In Catholic teaching, their *Catholic saints* are in heaven because they have performed miracles. This allows Catholics on earth to be revered, prayed to, and worship *Catholic saints* who are in heaven. ³

The Bible also mentions *saints*. For example, Romans mentions *saints* as follows: ⁴

- *"To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ," (Romans 1:7)*
- *"Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God," (Romans 8:27)*
- *"...distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality," (Romans 12:13)*
- *"But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints," (Romans 15:25)*
- *"For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem," (Romans 15:26)*
- *"...that I may be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints..." (Romans 15:31)*
- *"...that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also..." (Romans 16:2)*
- *"Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus..." (Romans 16:3)*
- *"Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints," (Romans 16:15)*

The word *saint* comes from the Greek word *hagios*, which means "consecrated to God, holy, sacred, pious." The idea of the word *saints* is a group of people set apart for the Lord and His kingdom. Therefore, *saints* are the body of Christ, Christians, the church. All Christians are considered *saints*. All Christians are *saints* — and at the same time are called to be *saints*. Further, in the Bible, the *saints* are on earth. Everyone who has received Jesus Christ by faith is a *saint*. Finally, *saints* are called to revere, worship, and pray to God alone. ⁵

God Bless

Pastor and Helen Moy

¹ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/junipero-serra-saint-pope-francis_5602eef5e4b00310edf9b362 who are with them

² <http://www.breitbart.com/california/2015/05/08/vatican-okays-sainthood-for-father-junipero-serra/>

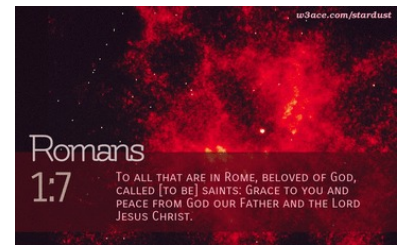
^{3, 5} <http://www.gotquestions.org/saints-Christian.html>

⁴ All verses are from the New King James Bible

2015年10月

親愛的基列主內弟兄姊妹，

在今年九月，當教宗方濟各訪問這國家，他抽出時間推崇和塞拉為最新的天主教聖徒。和塞拉是十八世紀西班牙方濟各的教士，他於1769年在加利福尼亞州創建了第一個天主教的事工，引進了天主教會的設立而被讚揚。¹



教宗方濟各要考慮其中一個重要因素是要證實和塞拉有否至少行了兩個神蹟。和塞拉第一個神蹟是他治癒了一個他曾為禱告的狼瘡病人。

教宗方濟各更宣佈和塞拉一生的工作乃是他的第二個神蹟，²因此他推崇和塞拉為最新的天主教聖徒。

為什麼要強調神蹟？在天主教教學裏，天主教聖徒之所以在天堂，因為他們已經行了神蹟。這容許在地上的天主教徒向在天堂上的天主教聖徒崇敬，祈禱和敬拜。³

聖經也提到聖徒。例如羅馬書提到聖徒如下：⁴

- 我寫信給你們在羅馬、為神所愛、奉召作聖徒的眾人。願恩惠、平安從我們的父神並主耶穌基督歸與你們！（羅馬書 1:7）
- 鑒察人心的，曉得聖靈的意思，因為聖靈照著神的旨意替聖徒祈求。（羅馬書 8:27）
- 聖徒缺乏要幫補；客要一味的款待。（羅馬書 12:13）
- 但現在，我往耶路撒冷去供給聖徒，（羅馬書 15:25）
- 因為馬其頓和亞該亞人樂意湊出捐項給耶路撒冷聖徒中的窮人（羅馬書 15:26）
- 叫我脫離在猶太不順從的人，也叫我為耶路撒冷所辦的捐項可蒙聖徒悅納，（羅馬書 15:31）
- 請你們為主接待他，合乎聖徒的體統。
他在何事上要你們幫助，你們就幫助他，因他素來幫助許多人，也幫助了我（羅馬書 16:2）
- 問百基拉和亞居拉安。他們在基督耶穌裡與我同工，（羅馬書 16:3）
- 又問非羅羅古和猶利亞，尼利亞和他姊妹，同阿林巴並與他們在一處的眾聖徒安。（羅馬書 16:15）

聖徒 這個詞來自希臘字hagios，意思是“奉獻給神，神聖的，聖潔的，虔誠的。”

*聖徒*這個詞的意思是要把一組人分別出來為主和他的國度。

因此，*聖徒*乃是基督的身子，基督徒，教會。所有基督徒都被視為*聖徒*。所有基督徒都是*聖徒* - 在同一時間被稱為*聖徒*。此外，在聖經中，*聖徒* 是在地上的。

每一個憑着信心接受耶穌基督的都是*聖徒*。最後，*聖徒* 只會奉召單單向上帝崇敬，祈禱和敬拜。

⁵

願主祝福你們

梅牧師及師母