

Who Wants to Be a Saint?

This question can be understood in two very different ways. On the one hand it asks: Who might step forward to accomplish this feat? On the other hand, it wonders: Who wants to bother putting forth the effort? Perhaps we have read too many of the wrong “lives of the saints” to want to be one of them. So often those stories describe extraordinary feats of physical punishment. Anyone who thinks that such abuse is what makes a saint should listen to St. Irenaeus of Lyons. He insists, “The glory of God is man [Christ] fully alive.” Sainthood is allowing the sanctifying grace of God to dwell habitually in us and make us like he who is fully alive—Jesus Christ. However, what does “fully alive” really mean?

To be fully alive means to be people of faith; to have deep principles and to live by them, regardless of the cost. It means to realize that we are part of the

wondrous creation of nature, and we must respect our place in it and our responsibilities for it. It means to care for others as well as for ourselves. All of this is grounded in faith in God, who loves us enough to make us and who made us to be fully alive. However, it is not always easy to live this out. Here is where the struggle comes in. We don’t have to create struggle; life will do that for us. Still, to be fully alive is well worth the price we might be asked to pay. Isn’t it?

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ What challenges do your life circumstances present to you?
- ★ What prevents you from standing up for principle in those circumstances?



[Jesus said,]
“Blessed are they
who are persecuted
for the sake of
righteousness,
for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.”
MATTHEW 5:10

SARA CARPENTER/SHUTTERSTOCK

