

Study Lesson Number 50

HONORING THE SAINTS, RELICS AND IMAGES - - continued from Weekly Bulletin #114

When we pray to the saints what do we ask them to do?

When we pray to the saints we ask them to offer their prayers to God for us.

How do we know that the saints will pray for us?

We know that the saints will pray for us because they are with God and have great love for us.

Why do we honor relics?

We honor relics because they are the bodies of the saints or objects (such as clothing, etc.) connected with the saints or with Our Lord.

When does the first commandment forbid the making or the use of statues and pictures?

The first commandment forbids the making or the use of statues and pictures only when they promote false worship.

An example of this would be using a medal, not to remind us of a saint, but simply as a good luck charm.

The use of a St. Christopher medal in an automobile, presupposes that the driver drives the car carefully and safely. The medal cannot prevent the accident of itself. The driver, along with St. Christopher, must do his own part in the matter of driving.

Is it right to show respect to the statues and pictures of Christ and of the saints?

It is right to show respect to the statues and pictures of Christ and of the saints, just as it is right to show respect to the images of those whom we honor or love on earth: pictures of our parents, our spouses, our children, etc.

Do we honor Christ and the saints when we pray before the crucifix, relics, and sacred images?

We honor Christ and the saints when we pray before the crucifix, relics, and sacred images because we honor the persons they represent; we adore Christ, but we venerate the saints. We do not adore the Blessed Mother, we venerate her, as being the first of all saints, and the Mother of God, Himself.

Do we pray to the crucifix or to the images and relics of the saints?

We do not pray to the crucifix or to the images and relics of the saints, but to the persons they represent.

Do we burn candles to the crucifix or to the images and relics of the saints?

We burn candles before the images for lack of a better place to burn them, but we burn them in honor of the sainted persons they represent.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the difference between the pagan worship of idols and veneration we pay to the statues of the saints?
2. How is it that we honor God in honoring the saints?
3. Answer this objection made by non-Catholics: "It is a waste of time to pray to the saints. It is much better to pray to God directly."
4. Why do you have pictures or statues of saints in your home?