

THE THINGS THEY SAID

November is a month when Catholic Christians remember those who have gone before us. We call to mind on All Saints Day those whom the whole Church recognizes. On All Souls Day, we remember in prayer those of our families and friends. All of them are heroes and heroines, having affected the life of the Church and our own.

Every hero and heroine has said something worth remembering. That is true about our Church leaders and national figures. It is true about our parents and those who touched us in our childhood. While we usually remember their “sayings,” we may not recall so easily those that our saints have left us. The *MAGNIFICAT* had a long list of them in their last month’s issue. I share some of them with you, so that we can be instructed by them.

The Blessed Lady’s life is reflected in her response to the Archangel Gabriel: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”

Saint Justine the Martyr is known to have said: “The greatest grace God can give someone is to send him a trial he cannot bear with his own powers – and then sustain him with his grace so he may endure to the end and be saved.”

Saint Irenaeus of Lyons proclaimed that, “The glory of God is man fully alive.”

Saint Clare exhorted: “Live and hope in the Lord, and let your service be according to reason.”

Saint Bonaventure explained: “God created all things not to increase his glory, but to show it forth and to communicate it.”

Saint Joan of Arc had this wisdom: “About Jesus Christ and the Church, I simply know that they are just one thing, and we should not complicate the matter.”

Saint Thomas More was aware that it is difficult to understand God’s ways when he said, “The brothers of the Patriarch Joseph could never have done him so much good with their love and favor as they did him with their malice and hatred.”

Saint Charles Borromeo had this insight: “The candle that gives light to others must itself be consumed. Thus we also have to act. We ourselves are consumed to give a good example to others.”

Saint John Neumann gave us hope when he taught, “Though God hates sin more than any other thing, He loves us poor miserable sinners. He ardently desires the welfare of our souls as if his own happiness depended on it.”

Saint Katherine Drexel must have known much consolation when she prayed for others: “May your faith be increased so as to realize the fact that you are never alone, wheresoever you may be, that the great God is with you, in you.”