

HOW HIGH CAN YOU GO?

(An Answer For Mike)

Dear Mike: Your question as to who is the greatest saint in Heaven is not an easy one to answer. Our Blessed Mother far surpasses everyone up there. But Our Lady cannot be put in the same class as the saints. She is the Mother of God, a dignity which places her above all the saints and angels.

I like to think that St. Joseph is the No. 1 saint. Theologians argue about this point. Some place St. John the Baptist in the lead.

It's too bad my old uncle never heard of this controversy. The old boy was the black sheep in the family, and he used to defend his moral lapses by saying that he would crawl over the fence into Heaven at the last minute of life. Just getting through the Pearly Gates is all that mattered to him. He had a false idea of Heaven. He thought every one who makes the grade enjoys the same degree of happiness. Acting on this principle, he never tried to outshine anyone. The St. Joseph-John Baptist controversy would have straightened him out.

Our first day up in Heaven is going to bring us a lot of surprises. A lot of rascals will be there. Somebody's prayer will have saved them. And some that we expected to be close to St. Peter won't be around. Their secret life will have caught up to them.

Another surprise will come from seeing the high degree of sanctity attained by some of the unassuming people who worked around us. High titles don't give high places in Heaven. Many a mother is going to be more glorious than some religious. Many poor and ignorant will be greater saints than some scholars.

Why the difference? God rewards everyone according to the way they serve Him. The lowly and humble many times have greater love. How high are you trying to go?

We who have joined a religious community and have taken the vows ought to have a place in Heaven above parents, business and professional men and scholars. Our state of life puts us in a position to serve God better. We have helps that others in the world do not possess. That's why our halos ought to be more shiny than those who lived in the world.

God wants to give a special place in Heaven to some souls. So he calls them to the religious life. Maybe He has called you. You had the idea once. Think it over. Write about your problems, and I'll try to solve them for you.

PRAYERS: (deceased) mother of Anne Kiley (St. Mary's); step-father of Father John Coholan, MM; father of Father Charles Lee.

(Ill) relative of Sister Amalia, CSC (St. Mary's) 5 Spec. Intentions, One Thanksgiving

THE NOVENA FOR VOCATIONS BEGINS THIS FRIDAY. CUT OUT AND SAY THE PRAYERS IN TOMORROW'S RELIGIOUS BULLETIN.

