



## Catechesis At Home – When the Saints Go Marching In

### Solemnity of All Saints [All Saints Day] – Year B

#### REFLECTION – When the Saints Go Marching In, I Want to Be in That Number!

Remember that 100-year-old Christian hymn that has become a wonderful Black spiritual, “When the Saints Go Marching In”? If you are not familiar with it, here is [Louis Armstrong’s 1939 version that made it famous](#), and since that one does not have any verses except the chorus, [here is one with a few](#). Here are the lyrics of the chorus that we are using this week to focus our reflection:

O when the saints go marching in,  
O when the saints go marching in;  
O Lord, I want to be in that number  
When the saints go marching in!

And the Scripture from Revelation 7:9-10, 14

After this I had a vision of a great multitude,  
which no one could count,  
from every nation, race, people, and tongue.  
They stood before the throne and before the Lamb,  
wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands.  
They cried out in a loud voice:

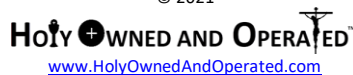
“Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne,  
and from the Lamb.”

Our hope is in the Lord, who sacrificed Himself for us as the Lamb, once and for all. When we are baptized, we are given the grace of His salvation: **We become saints!** Yet, in our life, we stumble, we fall to temptation, we sin, which tarnishes our soul (the white garment) and we must return to God’s grace through Reconciliation and His mercy. The promise is that we WILL be washed clean again and again, as long as we repent when we fall to sin, desire to be washed clean and to live in accord with God’s Law and His will for us. It seems impossible that we can enter into the heavenly Presence – we who are weak, prone to temptation, and stubborn in our acceptance of God’s love and grace. It is only through the Blood of the Lamb that we are washed clean and become saints. It is through His love and mercy that we are brought back into His Perfection.

#### DISCUSSION – Jesus Gives Us Direction So When the Saints Go Marching In We ARE In That number!

Our Baptismal call is to be holy: “To be perfect, as our heavenly Father is perfect” (Mt. 5:48). The Magisterium through the direction of the Holy Spirit says, “In order to reach this perfection the faithful should use the strength dealt out to them by Christ’s gift, so that...doing the will of the Father in everything, they may wholeheartedly devote themselves to the glory of God and to the service of their

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neighbor. Thus the holiness of the People of God will grow in fruitful abundance, as is clearly shown in the history of the Church through the lives of so many saints” [CCC 2013](#) quoting [Lumen Gentium, 40](#).

Jesus gives us the directions to serve God through our neighbor in this week’s Gospel – The Beatitudes. This week, talk with your family and friends about how you already DO these things and how you can be more intentional about doing these things for God’s GLORY.

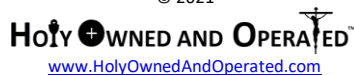
**ACTIVITY – Sing When the Saints Go Marching In; Pray And Live Like We Will Be In That Number**

Sing together “When the Saints Go Marching In”. The lyrics are below.

Pray together a Litany of Saints that includes the names of your family and friends’ patron saints, baptismal and confirmation saints. The litany is below.

Live together in God’s will by practicing the Beatitudes with one another and the wider community – at school, work, play, *and* church. The Beatitudes are below, and can be printed and placed on the refrigerator.

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## When the Saints Go Marching In

*These are lyrics remembered by Kristofer, from his hearing and singing them at a yearly revival at the black gospel Calvary Church down the street from his boyhood home that he attended every year, where he was first exposed to the love of and for The Lord. Their music attracted him, and the rest is history! Sing this with joy – especially the last verse! The chorus is sung twice at the beginning of the song and then after every verse, and you can make up your own verses, too, with this simple iambic tetrameter rhythm – there does not seem to be any set published version that is accurate to the original song, which itself is long lost. Here is an [instrumental version](#) so you can choose your own verses or freestyle!*

Oh, when the stars fall from the sky  
Oh, when the stars fall from the sky  
Oh Lord I want to be in that number  
When the stars fall from the sky.

Oh, when the sun refuse to shine  
Oh, when the sun refuse to shine  
Oh Lord I want to be in that number  
When the sun refuse to shine.

Oh, when the moon turns red with blood  
Oh, when the moon turns red with blood  
Oh Lord I want to be in that number  
When the moon turns red with blood.

Oh, when the drums begin to bang  
Oh, when the drums begin to bang  
Oh Lord I want to be in that number  
When the drums begin to bang.

Oh, when the trumpet sounds its call  
Oh, when the trumpet sounds its call  
Oh Lord I want to be in that number  
When when the trumpet sounds its call.

Oh, when the horsemen begin to ride  
Oh, when the horsemen begin to ride  
Oh Lord I want to be in that number  
When the horsemen begin to ride.

O when all knees bow at His name,  
O when all knees bow at His name,  
O Lord, I want to be in the number  
When all knees bow at His name.

O when they crown Him Lord of all,  
O when they crown Him Lord of all;  
O Lord, I want to be in the number  
When they crown Him Lord of all.

O when they sing the Savior's praise,  
O when they sing the Savior's praise,  
O Lord, I want to be in the number  
When they sing the Savior's praise.

Oh, when the new world is revealed  
Oh, when the new world is revealed  
Oh Lord I want to be in that number  
When that new world is revealed

Oh, [Brother Charles] † you are my friend  
Oh, [Brother Charles] † you are my friend  
Yea, you gonna be in that number  
When the saints go marching in.

Oh, won't you come along with me  
Oh, won't you come along with me  
Let's serve Our Lord and be in that number  
When the saints go marching in.

Oh, when the new world is revealed  
Oh, when the new world is revealed  
Oh Lord I want to be in that number  
When that new world is revealed

**CHORUS: Oh, when the saints go marching in  
Oh, when the saints go marching in  
Oh Lord\* I want to be in that number  
When the saints go marching in.**

\*These first words of the third line in the chorus are often phrases like "Lord, Lord!" or "Lord, how I want" or "How" or "Oh, Lord how" or any combination of exclamation. In the church Kristofer learned this, anything goes – you sang what the Spirit led you to sing! Enjoy it and embellish it!

† Change the name to those gathered. Such as "Sister Beth" or "Brother Kristofer". WARNING: This could make the song last a long time depending on how many people are there!

This song, by its universal appeal and simple melody and rhythm, has infinite possibilities and renditions. You will not find a version online that is "traditional" or has all of the above lyrics. First made famous by Louis Armsotron in 1939, this song appeals to each individual and community, which by that expresses the universal message of the Gospel and the universality of the Catholic Church, which teaches what we share in this lesson.

## Our Family's

### Litany of Saints

Holy Mary, Mother of God

*Pray for us.*

St. Joseph, Patron of Families

*Pray for us.*

St. \_\_\_\_\_

*Pray for us.*

St. \_\_\_\_\_

*Pray for us.*

St. \_\_\_\_\_

*Pray for us.*

St. \_\_\_\_\_

*Pray for us.*

St. \_\_\_\_\_

*Pray for us.*

St. \_\_\_\_\_

*Pray for us.*

St. \_\_\_\_\_

*Pray for us.*

St. \_\_\_\_\_

*Pray for us.*

St. \_\_\_\_\_

*Pray for us.*

St. \_\_\_\_\_

*Pray for us.*

Christ, hear us,

*Christ, graciously hear us.*

Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

*Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.*

Lord, have mercy on us.

*Lord, have mercy on us.*

Christ, have mercy on us.

*Christ, have mercy on us.*

Lord, have mercy on us.

*Lord, have mercy on us.*

The Beatitudes

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,  
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you  
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.

Rejoice and be glad,

for your reward will be great in heaven.”

Matthew 5:3-12