



***The Armor of Faith***  
**Topic Summary: Saints of Inspiration**  
***Part VIII: Saint of Lost Boys***



*Saint Dominic Savio*  
*Public Domain*

**Introduction**

[Greeting:] → Welcome to “The Armor of Faith,” a show where we hope to bring our listeners closer to the Word of God and the blessings we receive through living in the fullness of the Catholic faith. My name is Doug and I will be your host as we discuss the blessings of the Church Christ built upon Peter.

I am joined today by my panel: [names]

Helen is a lay-Dominican with a love for music ministry. The Dominicans, I always mention, are also known as the Order of Preachers. Sharon, in addition to being my lovely wife as well as a wonderful blessing in my life, is a youth and adult formation catechist. We are also blessed to have on our panel, Donna Mae, who is the artist who sculpted the statue of Our Lady of America which was carried by our youth and blessed by Saint John Paul II at the 1993 World Youth Day.

Of course, as everyone knows by now, I am simply here to ask questions because questions open the doors to discussion and learning – well, at least, that's our objective. That's my story and I'm sticking to it. Anyway, the hard part we leave to our panelists, which is to answer my questions, correct my pronunciation, and make sure I know which century I am talking about, so welcome to our panelists as well as to our listeners.

Let us open with a prayer:

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, we lift up our hearts in thanks and praise for this opportunity to open and share your Holy Word this day. We pray that You are with us and all our listeners as we share with one another the blessings of faith. We pray You will grant us wisdom and understanding as we seek to learn Your Holy Truth.

Dear Lord, we also lift up the prayers in our prayer basket. You know what is written on each one and you know the hearts of those who offer their thanks and praise as well as their petitions for the blessings of Your great mercy.

We pray especially today for those who suffer from chronic disease. We pray Your healing hand will rest upon them, as well as Your hand of comfort. We pray You will guide the hearts and hands of their care givers and that Your hand of comfort shall rest on all who love and care for them.

We pray too, dear Lord, for those working in ministry. We pray that You will guide them and touch hearts by which more hands may join the effort by which blessings are shared.

We also lift up the Flame of Love Prayer:

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,*

*spread the effect of grace of thy Flame of Love over all of humanity, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

If you would like to add your prayers to our prayer basket, all you need to do is send us an email at [armoroffaithradio@gmail.com](mailto:armoroffaithradio@gmail.com). We ask that you include the word “prayer” in the subject line so that we will give it priority and ensure we place it in our prayer basket. Just so you know, Sharon and I lift up our prayers with those in the Armor of Faith Radio prayer basket during the course of our daily prayers.

And speaking of prayer, we would like to invite everyone to join the Philadelphia Flame of Love Apostolate to lift up a Worldwide Unity Prayer to Blind Satan. This united effort will be conducted on Good Friday, 2 April, at 11AM ET. At this time, everyone is invited to:

1. Make the sign of the Cross five times while thinking of the five wounds of Christ
2. Pray the Unity Prayer
3. Pray the Flame of Love prayer

To learn more, you can visit [www.flameoflove.us](http://www.flameoflove.us) and follow the Worldwide Unity Prayer to Blind Satan link on the home page. And if you happen to be listening to this episode after Good Friday, you can still join in the prayer and ask that your prayer be joined with all who are lifting it up around the world.

We would also like to ask you to assist Armor of Faith Radio in our evangelization. By sharing the URL for our show, you can help us spread knowledge of our faith. All you need to do is share the URL, [wcatradio.com/armoroffaith](http://wcatradio.com/armoroffaith) via email or social media and tell family and friends as well. Several of the streaming services through which we are available on demand also have share options, so we invite you to join the evangelization and help us spread the good news of the Gospel and our trust in Jesus Christ. You can also help us by selecting the follow or subscribe option associated with the service through which you listen to our show.

## Current Day Commentary:

### *Battle of the Clerics*

I keep trying to remind myself that this is not the worst period of history and that there have been divisions within the Church since the beginning. Indeed, we observe Saint Paul admonishing the Corinthians for their rivalries.

(1 Corinthians 1:10-13)

*10 I urge you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose. 11 For it has been reported to me about you, my brothers, by Chloe's people, that there are rivalries among you. 12 I mean that each of you is saying, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." 13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?*

The other day, after reading a rather infuriating article, I turned to Sharon and said, "You remember the battle in heaven where Satan and the Angels were thrown down? I feel like that is what we are observing right now within our clergy."

The scripture to which I was referring is Revelation 12:7-9, which reads:

(Revelation 12:7-9)

*7 Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels battled against the dragon. The dragon and its angels fought back, 8 but they did not prevail and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 9 The huge dragon, the ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, who deceived the whole world, was thrown down to earth, and its angels were thrown down with it.*

Now, we refer to the fallen angels as demons, so what do we call our fallen clergy? What I mean by our fallen clergy are those who seem to be blinded to what God asks of us and who preach the ways of the world as if it is something which God would accept or bless.

During our series, "By Their Fruits You Will Know Them," episodes 57 – 68, which we presented back in 2018, we spoke about the efforts of the Communist Party to recruit those who would infiltrate the clergy of the Catholic Church as a means to divide, sabotage, and destroy the Church from within. We mentioned that our job as the laity is not to sleuth out the wolves in the clothing of shepherds as it is to recognize and turn away from where they seek to lead us. It is not the job of the laity to confront the wolves, rather, we must steer clear of them. We must let our good shepherds deal with them, for that is part of the responsibility of the good shepherd.

Our best defense during this battle between the clerics true to the Word of God and those true to worldly politics and political correctness is to know our faith. The more we know the fullness of our faith, the more difficult we make the task of the one who would deceive us away from what God asks of us. The politically correct cleric seeks to manipulate our beliefs through

manipulations of truth. We must consider not just the sentiment of the statement at hand, but we must examine the full context for what God desires for us to understand.

Jesus warned us of the false prophets in Matthew 7:15-20. He told us, “*By their fruits you will know them.*” This is true whether the error is to the left or the right. We must remember, Satan cares not how we miss the mark of what God asks of us, only that we do. The warning flag for us is when what is spoken or done is in opposition to either God's design or will.

We must be careful here, for wolves in the clothing of shepherds will attempt to open doors to bad behaviors by taking God's Word out of context. Progressive Priests love to do this to us all the time, for example, throwing Matthew 25:31-46 out there, not as a means to encourage us to ministry, but with a slight of hand to encourage us to accept or even bless what God does not bless.

We must remember, there is a difference between care of the less fortunate and enabling behavior which stands in opposition to God's will for us. Of course, scripture calls us to love one another, which includes the sinner, but what we love is the person, not harmful behavior. Our love must not be confused with endorsement of sinful practices. Our call is not to judge one another, but to help one another turn away from harmful paths. Our clergy should be helping us understand the distinctions, not muddying the waters with political ideologies.

As the battle rages between the good shepherds and the wolves in the clothing of shepherds, we must pray for all our clergy. We must pray God will protect our good shepherds and increase their number, because they are so few and we are in such desperate need of them. We must pray for the wolves in the clothing of shepherds for they know not what they do. We must pray our Lord will touch these dark hearts to help them see the error of their ways, the harm which they cause, and the evil which they spread so they may turn away from the darkness and perhaps even join the ranks of the good shepherds. Let us pray so we need not doubt those entrusted by God to lead us in truth.

## **Why Catholics Do What We Do:**

### ***Catholic Definitions – Part XXI: Homily***

And here we are at the Triduum of which we talked last time. It is Holy Thursday, the beginning of Christ's passion and the redemption of our souls. Sunday is Easter and what a glorious day it will be. Time to celebrate, rejoice, and give thanks and praise.

During the Easter Mass, the priests will deliver a homily. Homilies are special and are designed to teach and inspire us. The homily is the part of the Mass in which the priest stands before us to explain the history and the meaning of the Scriptural readings we had just listened to.

Easter homilies are extra special and priests work hard on writing and delivering them, I would like to share with you one of the most profound homilies ever written. While this homily can be found all over the internet, I plucked this jewel from [litemergies.net](http://litemergies.net). John Chrysostom, who was a Bishop of Constantinople around the year 400 had this to say to his flock.

*The Easter Sermon of John Chrysostom  
Pastor of Constantinople (cf. 400 AD)*

Is there anyone who is a devout lover of God?  
Let them enjoy this beautiful bright festival!  
Is there anyone who is a grateful servant?  
Let them rejoice and enter into the joy of their Lord!

Are there any weary with fasting?  
Let them now receive their wages!  
If any have toiled from the first hour,  
let them receive their due reward;  
If any have come after the third hour,  
let him with gratitude join in the Feast!  
And he that arrived after the sixth hour,  
let him not doubt; for he too shall sustain no loss.  
And if any delayed until the ninth hour,  
let him not hesitate; but let him come too.  
And he who arrived only at the eleventh hour,  
let him not be afraid by reason of his delay.

For the Lord is gracious and receives the last even as the first.  
He gives rest to him that comes at the eleventh hour,  
as well as to him that toiled from the first.  
To this one He gives, and upon another He bestows.  
He accepts the works as He greets the endeavor.  
The deed He honors and the intention He commends.

Let us all enter into the joy of the Lord!  
First and last alike receive your reward;  
rich and poor, rejoice together!  
Sober and slothful, celebrate the day!

You that have kept the fast, and you that have not,  
rejoice today for the Table is richly laden!  
Feast royally on it, the calf is a fatted one.  
Let no one go away hungry. Partake, all, of the cup of faith.  
Enjoy all the riches of His goodness!

Let no one grieve at his poverty,  
for the universal kingdom has been revealed.  
Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again;  
for forgiveness has risen from the grave.  
Let no one fear death, for the Death of our Savior has set us free.  
He has destroyed it by enduring it.

He destroyed Hades when He descended into it.  
He embittered it even as it tasted of His flesh.  
Isaiah foretold this when he said,  
"You, O Hell, have been troubled by encountering Him below."

Hell was embittered because it was done away with.  
It was embittered because it is mocked.  
It was embittered, for it is destroyed.  
It is embittered, for it is annihilated.  
It is embittered, for it is now made captive.  
Hell took a body, and discovered God.  
It took earth, and encountered Heaven.  
It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it did not see.  
O death, where is thy sting?  
O Hades, where is thy victory?

Christ is Risen, and you, O death, are annihilated!  
Christ is Risen, and the evil ones are cast down!  
Christ is Risen, and the angels rejoice!  
Christ is Risen, and life is liberated!  
Christ is Risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead;  
for Christ having risen from the dead,  
is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever. Amen!

So in his giving of this message, John Chrysostom wanted to impart to his flock that there is hope, there is life, there is redemption. That all people are to rejoice and know that Jesus is there for them no matter what their situations are. No matter where we are in our faith journey, no matter how soon or how late we come to the table, Jesus always has a place for us. Rejoice!! It is Easter and we are saved and we are free because of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Have a blessed week All. Remember, you are loved dearly by God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit and yes, by us as well.*

If you would like to learn more about the Catholic meaning of the "Easter Homily" we invite you to follow the links in the reference section of the topic summary for this episode. You can obtain the topic summary by visiting <https://wcatradio.com/armoroffaithstudyguides/> and select episode 192.

### **Discussion:**

As we concluded our last discussion, I pointed out that while several Popes advanced the cause of Saint Philomena, the Sacred Congregation of Rites, during the time of Pope John XXIII, removed her from the liturgical calendar. This was largely due to the lack of historical evidence

as to the life and works of the young saint. She essentially did not fit the mold for canonization, of which there was not a specified process when her relics were discovered. (Cunningham)

Regardless of the controversy, the testimonies as to the miracles attributed to the intercessions of Saint Philomena remain. While removed from the liturgical calendar, the Church still allows private devotion. When we consider our personal relationship with a saint, we should also look for the Holy Spirit to be our guide as we learn and discern.

The inspiration we take from Saint Philomena is partially from the private revelations about her as well as the miracles attributed to her intercession. What they mean to each of us individually must be discerned.

As we look at our current day, we can point to any number of desperate causes. We can also point to the assault upon the sanctity of life and the innocence of our children. Popes and saints have called upon the intercession of Saint Philomena, therefore, I do not think we are in bad company should we do the same. We must remember, this youthful saint has no power unless granted to her by God. Let us pray that through her intercession we will find the means to protect the innocence of our children, enable the sanctity of life, and enable our children to resist the tactics of the devil. Let us allow the saints to help amplify our prayers.

Today, we are going to turn our discussion to the Saint of Lost Boys, Dominic Savio. Saint John Bosco wrote a biography of the young saint which was one of Saint Bosco's students. Of Saint Dominic's younger years, Saint Bosco wrote:

In the unreflecting manner, natural to them, children are generally a source of worry and disturbance to their mothers; it is the age when they must touch and examine and often taste everything they come across; but Dominic's parents testify that he never gave the least trouble in this way. He was not only obedient to the smallest point, but ready for any expression of a wish, and tried to foresee opportunities of doing them some little service. (Bosco, 5)

He had, of course, to mix with the young and thoughtless boys of his own age, but he always managed to avoid their little quarrels and disputes, although this at times brought upon him taunts and insults, which he bore with remarkable courage and patience. The usual boyish, but by no means praiseworthy, tricks and escapades were part of the usual programme of his companions, but Dominic generally found means for being otherwise employed when these were in progress. (Bosco, 6)

**(Question 1:** We know from experience that children can be a challenge as they learn norms of behavior. We might reflect, how many times have we been drawn into trouble because we desired acceptance of others. What might we learn from young Saint Dominic's approach?)

- We must seek the acceptance of God before any other
- As we do for others, we are distracted from our own selfishness
- As we witness trouble brew, we need not tarry there
- We can avoid trouble by avoiding the places of trouble

(cf. Acts 5:29) *But Peter and the apostles said in reply, "We must obey God rather than men."*

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Saint Dominic received his First Communion early for the customs of the time. At the age of 7, he demonstrated all the knowledge, and desire. After consulting with neighboring priests as to the piety and knowledge of the young boy, the parish priest decided to allow young Dominic to receive the sacrament. Saint John Bosco recorded the resolutions made by young Dominic on the occasion of the child's First Communion.

Resolutions made by me, Dominic Savio, in the year 1849, on the day of my First Communion, at the age of seven.

1. I will go to Confession often, and as frequently to Holy Communion as my confessor allows.
2. I wish to sanctify the Sundays and festivals in a special manner.
3. My friends shall be Jesus and Mary.
4. Death rather than sin.

These resolutions were not simply written out and then put carefully away; he read them very often, and they were a guide to him throughout his life. (Bosco, 7)

**(Question 2:** We rarely find children at such a tender age writing resolutions. If we examine these, they are statements not only of behavior, but of belief. **What beliefs are reflected in these few short resolutions?**)

- The blessing of the Mass and the sacrament of Reconciliation
- The blessing of keeping holy the Sabbath
- The blessing of sharing in Church celebrations
- The blessings of sharing the love of Jesus and Mary
- The blessing of courage and determination against the seductions of sin

**Thought:** We might ask ourselves, what are our faith resolutions?

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Sometimes children see and observe what adults might overlook. Perhaps this is because the nature of the world clouds our perceptions such that we are unable to see beyond the world. Saint John Bosco recounted a conversation young Dominic had with an elderly adult. Saint Bosco wrote:

One day an elderly person saw Dominic going along the road, about two o'clock in the afternoon, under a broiling sun, and, meaning to give him a little encouragement, said to him: "Are you not afraid to go so far alone?"

"**I am not alone,**" said Dominic, "**I have my angel guardian with me,** accompanying every step."

"But surely you find the journey long and tiresome in this very hot weather."

"Nothing seems tiresome or painful when you are working for a master who pays well."

"And who is your master?"

"It is God, our Creator, who rewards even a cup of cold water given for love of Him."  
(Bosco, 8)

**(Question 3:** As we stew over our troubles, a bad habit of mine, we often fail to observe our blessings. To what perspective does this little story of young Dominic draw our attention?)

- The perspective of the ways God provides for us
- The perspective of angelic assistance and protection of our soul
- The perspective of what God offers versus what is offered by the world
- The perspective of the blessings of doing for the least of these.

(Matthew 25:34-40)

*34 Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' 40 And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'*

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Another account of which Don Bosco wrote is perhaps the reason why Saint Dominic Savio is referred to as the patron of the falsely accused.

One day a serious offense had been committed by certain pupils of mine, and the guilty ones, when found, were to be expelled. The culprits thought out several expedients in order to escape the punishment, and at last settled on the plan of accusing Dominic of the offense....Dominic might have very easily shown that he was entirely innocent, but he made no reply. He hung down his head, as one who was deservedly reprovved, and made no attempt at clearing his character.

...[O]n the very next day the culprits were discovered. Deeply regretting now the harsh terms of the reproof I had made to the boy, I sent for him and said: "Why did you not tell me that you had had nothing to do with it?" He replied in his usual candid manner: "I knew that the guilty boy was already under threat of expulsion for other things, but I hoped to be forgiven, since it was the first act of misconduct ever imputed to me at school. I also remembered that Our Lord had been unjustly accused:" (Bosco, 10)

**(Question 4:** It is understandable that when we are falsely accused, we have a strong desire to clear our name. **What do we observe in this reasoning of young Dominic?)**

- Sometimes patience is required before others will see
- The path to vindication can turn to the temptation of revenge or retribution
- We can always be right, or we can simply love
- Suffering so others do not is a form of penance
- Did not the Innocent One die for our transgressions?

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Dominic expressed a devotion to penance, but because of Dominic's young age and health, his superiors forbade Dominic from performing acts of penance without express permission. While Dominic complied, he struggled in understanding. Saint Bosco recounts a conversation with young Dominic.

Later on I saw that he was in some difficulty. He said he could not reconcile the command of the Gospel to do penance, with the prohibition he had received. "The penance God wishes from you," I said, "is simply obedience. If you obey, that will suffice for everything."

"Can you not allow me to do some other penance?"

"The only penance you are to do, is to bear patiently all that God sends you in this life."

"But those things must be put up with by necessity."

"Very well," I replied, "whatever you have to suffer by necessity, offer it to God, and it will become a virtue, and meritorious in the sight of God." (Bosco, 23)

**(Question 5:** When we examine the lives of the saints, we often hear the call to penance. Our Blessed Mother, especially at Fatima, calls us to penance; and indeed, the children of Fatima sought to perform acts of penance through prayer and mortification. **How might this exchange between Saint Bosco and the young Saint Dominic help us put penance in perspective?)**

- We may lift up what we endure as God would have us endure it
- We may perform penance through our patience with those who persecute us
- We may perform penance by abstaining from desires of anger, revenge, and retribution
- Endurance of hardship without complaint may be lifted up as penance
- Seeking comfort for others before self may be lifted up as penance
- All of our innocent suffering may be lifted up as penance
- Let us not forget prayer, almsgiving, and fasting as acts of penance

(Hosea 6:6)

For it is **loyalty that I desire**, not sacrifice, and knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

(Matthew 9:13)

[Jesus said,] Go and learn the meaning of the words, **'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'** I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.

(Luke 9:23)

Then he said to all, "If anyone wishes to come after me, **he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.**"

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For a novena in honor of Saint Dominic Savio, we recommend visiting [novenaprayer.com](https://novenaprayer.com) and search for Saint Dominic Savio. <https://novenaprayer.com/?s=Dominic+Savio>

Feastday: 6 May

Patron: Choir boys, falsely accused people, and juvenile delinquents

Death: 9 Mar 1857

Canonized by: Pope Pius XXII

## Quotes:

### *Quotes of Saint Dominic Savio*

Ask Jesus to make you a saint. After all, only He can do that. Go to confession regularly and to Communion as often as you can.

If I can succeed in saving only a single soul I can be sure that my own will be saved.

I am not capable of doing big things, but I want to do everything, even the smallest things, for the greater glory of God.

Nothing seems tiresome or painful when you are working for a Master who pays well; who rewards even a cup of cold water given for love of Him.

I need nothing in this world in order to be happy. I only need to see Jesus in heaven, Whom I now see and adore on the altar with the eyes of faith.

Mary, I give you my heart. Always keep it yours. Jesus, Mary, always be my friends. I beg you, let me die rather than be so unfortunate as to commit a single sin.

## Final Thoughts:

Because of his poor health, Saint Dominic Savio passed away at the young age of 14. As we reflect on the life of young Dominic Savio, we are left to wonder, why does God take the good

souls while they are so young? There may be many reasons for the answer, and we can only speculate, but, perhaps it is because God has a mission for them in heaven. As we lift up our hearts in prayer and listen, perhaps God will reveal to us His reasons.

Some may be tempted to see this child as, well, too well behaved and thoughtful; certainly not the challenge I was as a child. Some may say he had no moral battle to overcome, and yet, he did. The world surrounded young Dominic with any number of trials and temptations, but he kept his focus on Jesus and what God asks of us. It was young Dominic's choice. With that focus, he was able to encourage others and live as an example, not only for the children of his age, but also for adults who encountered him as well.

Some may ponder that they made different choices as a child, and now it is too late to walk the path of young Dominic. Indeed, the evil one targets the innocence of children to lead them astray, which is why it is the responsibility of parents to guard that innocence with faith and love. Some like me may be tempted to say, but I have made so many bad choices, there is no hope that I may turn my life around.

This is the wonder of Jesus, that there is always hope. Saint Dominic Savio may have made the choice for God while a child, but it was a choice. It is a choice we all may make today. No matter our past, we have a future with the Lord. No matter our past, we can decide to change what will come from us and perhaps endeavor to return to our childhood innocence as we seek to help accomplish the will of God, which a certain saint reminds us is love and mercy itself.

There is so much more we could share about the saint of lost boys, but again, we have so little time. If you would like to learn more about Saint Dominic Savio, we invite you to follow the links in the reference section of the topic summary for this show. You can obtain the topic summary by visiting <https://wcatradio.com/armoroffaithstudyguides/> and look for episode 192.

**Wrap Up:** Well, our time has once more come to an end. We hope you will be able to join us next time as we turn our discussion to the Saint of Purity and Forgiveness.

Let us conclude with a prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for this opportunity to share the blessings of our trust and faith in You. We pray that as we go our separate ways, You will continue to walk with us and help us to see how we may put on the armor of **truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation**, and the **Word** of the gospel not only for the benefit of our lives, but also the lives of all who cross our path.

And let us share the Flame of Love Prayer:

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,*

*spread the effect of grace of thy Flame of Love over all of humanity, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Thank you all and God bless.

**Next Session:** Saints of Inspiration – Part IX: Saint of Purity and Forgiveness

**Current Day Commentary References:**

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