



**ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE of ORANGE**

PASTORAL CENTER: BISHOP'S OFFICE

13280 CHAPMAN AVENUE, GARDEN GROVE, CA 92840

November 10, 2015

Dear friends of the Loyola Institute,

This morning as I was celebrating 6:30 a.m. Mass in the Arboretum on the Christ Cathedral campus, during the proclamation of the first reading from Wisdom 3 which speaks of the “souls of the just”, the morning sun came through at the exact moment of the Word of God which said *“at the time of their visitation they shall shine and shall dart about as sparks through stubble”!*

This is certainly a fitting excerpt from the Word of God for us as we begin this month of November with so many saints and feast days in the Church’s Liturgical calendar. If we have experienced the “discernment” of one’s personal vocation through the spiritual exercises, it is indeed a moment when the light of Christ shines on our lives and reflections. The Saints in the month of November do just that for us as well! This month it would be worthwhile for us to take some time to reflect on the Saints of the Month in the calendar, and how they followed their own personal call to holiness and mission.


We can certainly think of the celebration of the anniversary of the dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome (November 9) – a reflection on the entire family of God and what the significance of a Cathedral is for the unity of the Church; St. Leo the Great (November 10) is a call to heroism in challenging times as he defended the divinity of Christ, and in his care for his people was unafraid of the challenges of the invasions from the North; St. Martin of Tours (November 11) teaches us, with the story of his cloak and laying down his sword, of being attentive to the poor and praying for peace. Did you know that November 11, Veterans’ Day) can be traced back directly to St. Martin because peace treaties were originally signed on his feast day. Thus the treaty which ended the First World War (originally called “Armistice Day”) was signed on his feast day and the name later changed to “Veterans Day”. November 12, St. Josephat, teaches us of the heritage of our Eastern Church brothers and sisters, and the foundation of being in communion with the See of Rome, for which St. Josaphat gave his life. St. Albert the Great, whose feast day is November 15, is a reminder that faith and science are not necessarily exclusive. Finally, November 17, for St. Elizabeth of Hungary, who was a Third Order Franciscan, gives us a history lesson (like that of St. Margaret of Scotland on November 16) that many of the rulers of the Middle Ages lived their faith so definitively that they were always motivated by the spiritual and material welfare of the people in their kingdoms. And, they’re others as well!

**MOST REVEREND KEVIN W. VANN, J.C.D., D.D.  
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The lives of these holy men and women are truly like the light of morning sun which reflected the lives of the saints whose example and intercession shines for us “like sparks through stubble” as we pray to find, through prayer, discernment and daily life, our “calling with the calling” of our vocations in the Body of Christ!

God bless you all these holy days.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin W. Vann". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Most Rev. Kevin W. Vann, J.C.D., D.D.  
Bishop of Orange