

## **Who Am I Becoming?**

*Sermon for November 1, 2009*

**Think back through your life. Have you experienced a spiritual mountaintop where your heart thrilled to sing the song of redeeming love? Can you remember a time when you felt a change of heart that filled you from head to toe with the love of God, a desire to serve Him, and an overflowing love for His children? Can you recall a time when you wanted to share this overwhelming joy with others so they could have what you have?**

**Today we celebrate the saints – God’s people – who have and do experience the joy and overflowing love of God. All the saints, since the time of Jesus, have realized the joy of salvation because of His death and resurrection. The Holy Spirit sanctified them as the Spirit sanctifies us – calling us by the Gospel, enlightening us with His gifts, making us holy through the blood of Jesus, and keeping us holy through Word and Sacrament ministry.**

**Everyday we are in the process of becoming who God wants us to be. At first, at our conception through birth we were enemies of God, held tightly in the grip of Satan. Through the waters of Baptism we were set free from Satan’s grip on us. We were connected to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. We are still sinners but we are also saints.**

**St. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13, <sup>11</sup>*When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. <sup>12</sup>Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.***

**We are in a process of becoming what God wants us to become. We are His children whom He has adopted into His family. We can call Him “Abba Father” by the power of the Holy Spirit. When we don’t know what to say, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us. Each day I am given an opportunity to become more like Jesus Christ.**

**I can look at my life and tell my story. I have a birth-date for my beginning existence. I had a relationship with a father and mother before they were called to their eternal home. I have a brother who is six years my elder. I can**

**give details of my education, the friends and neighbors where I grew up, my extended family, and my places of employment. I can give details of courtship and marriage and the blessing of children. I can share information of myself. As René Descartes said, “*I think, therefore I am.*”**

**But what am I becoming? I’m becoming older, grayer of hair, towards the end of my prime, and leaning more of what it means to be a grandfather. Some would say that that’s enough in life. Others would argue with that statement. Frankly, so do I.**

**What I am becoming, by the grace of God, is more and more His child and closer to the reality of being an heir in His kingdom. I know I am a sinner and a saint but at times I feel less than a saint and more as a sinner in need of God’s mercy. God’s love continues to lift me up from the mire of sin and wash me clean through the waters of Baptism and with the precious blood of Jesus. God’s Word gives constant encouragement and guidance along with help and comfort.**

**When I think of the saints of God, those who have died for the faith and those who have died in the faith, I am filled with awe as to their tenacity in the face of persecution and to their steadfastness in their walk of faith.**