

Rejoice in the Lord

By Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Newark

Reflection

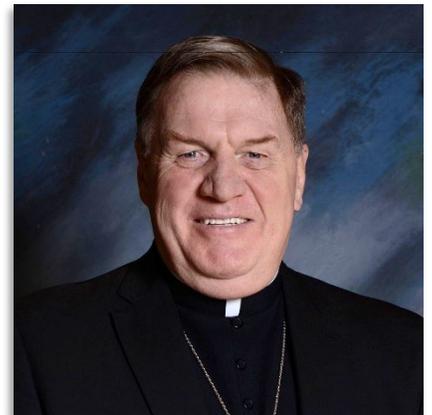
All are called to be saints: holy men, holy women

During the first two days of November, the Church calls our attention to what the Second Vatican Council termed “the universal call to holiness.” We Catholics believe that every human being is made in the image and likeness of God, and all of us—no matter who we are or what our personal history may be—are called to be holy.

What does it mean to be holy? According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “the desire for God is written in the human heart” (CCC, #27). We human beings are meant to search for God, to find him and to become united with him—both here on earth and in our heavenly home. Holiness is the quality of our union with God, the indication of our closeness to him. Holy women and men are close to God. That’s why we call them “saints,” which comes from the Latin word *sanctus* or holy.

All of us are called to holiness, to closeness to God, but unfortunately, most of us find ourselves further away from God than we would like to be. That’s why Christ gives us the sacraments—especially the Eucharist and the sacrament of penance—to help us in our daily struggles on the way to holiness. We all are called to be close to God, but for many of us (most of us?) the journey is a long and difficult one.

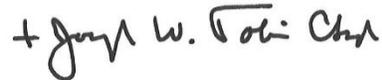
Thanks be to God, his grace and mercy are endless. Our loving and merciful God never gives up on us. Even after we die, we Christians believe that it is still possible to atone for our sins, to grow in holiness and come closer to God. That’s why we pray for those who have died. It’s also why the Church celebrates the feast of All Souls on November 2. We are all called to become holy—both the living and the dead—and the grace of our Lord Jesus is not confined to this world but can reach even into the depths of hell—to the state of being we call purgatory—to touch the hearts of those “poor souls” who must undergo a process of purification before being fully united with God.



In our desire to be united with God, we look to the saints to show us the way. The saints seek God's will in their lives. They share with him their hopes and frustrations (and sometimes even their loneliness, anger and fear). Through their prayer, their attentive listening even more than the words they speak, the holy men and women we call saints are in constant contact with God.

As we recall the holy people—living and deceased—who serve as stars guiding us to Christ, let's pray for the grace to let God's love and mercy touch our hearts and bring us closer to him who is our true heart's desire.

Sincerely yours in Christ the Redeemer,



Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Newark

FORWARD IN *Faith* TOGETHER
Our Road Ahead



Protection of the Faithful



Accountability, Transparency, and Communication



Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning



Lifelong Faith Formation and Education



Ongoing Formation/Support of Clergy



Active Engagement of the Laity

Forward in Faith Together: Our Road Ahead is Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin's pastoral vision for the Archdiocese of Newark. It seeks to establish a positive path forward for the faithful, the clergy, and the Archdiocese while simultaneously addressing crucial challenges of the past and present. It is a foundation for healing that addresses the hurt and mistrust within our community, reinforces the changes we have begun to implement, and provides a firm foundation for our lives as missionary disciples of Jesus. **Forward in Faith Together** will ensure that we flourish as a community of disciples, companions of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Please visit online to learn more: Forward.RCAN.org

Beauty beyond belief: Discover the sacred landmark that houses grand elegance and global history

By Hunter Hulbert | Jersey's Best

Strolling down Clifton Avenue in Newark is an otherworldly experience that leaves a lasting impression on those who pass through the Lower Broadway neighborhood in New Jersey's largest city.

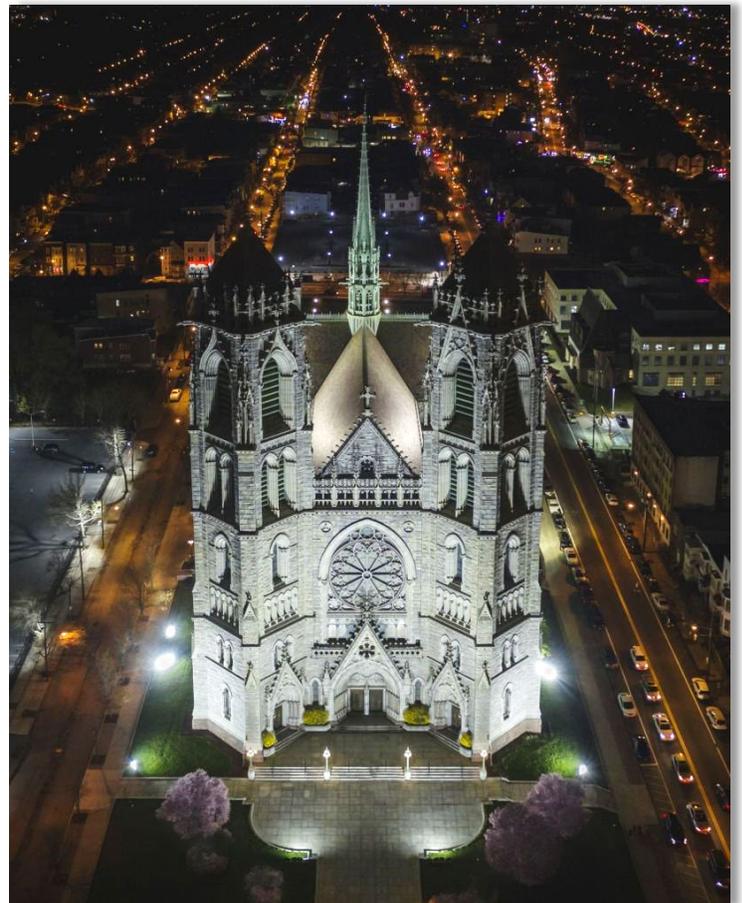
For one, it is just a stone's throw from the largest collection of cherry blossom trees in America — a spectacle of its own in the spring — but what you will find amid the ever-changing metropolis is something that is often seen yet rarely appreciated to the fullest extent.

It's a structure that stands steady, continuously challenging the tests of time and transcending the sea of humanity that surrounds it. This is the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Perched on Newark's highest peak next to Branch Brook Park, the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart is a towering centerpiece that has marked the intersection of history, culture and faith since its inception in 1859. The 45,000-square-foot cathedral (comparable in size to Westminster Abbey) is a massive monument — the fifth largest in North America — that creates an unforgettable experience for all who enter.

As you pass through the bronze, Roman doors of the French Gothic structure, worlds old and new, far and near, come together in the ultimate expression of unity through art and architecture. Hand-carved selections of wood, stone and marble are illuminated in a golden glow as natural light pours through the beautiful stained-glass windows imported from Germany, creating pops of blue and purple that captivates even the most casual onlooker. Three rose windows form a trifecta of glass masterpieces, considered among the finest in the world, and second only to the Chartres Cathedral in France in quality. The 36-foot rose window in the main entrance gallery is the largest of its kind found in a Catholic church in the Western Hemisphere.

Just above the intricate windows, vaulted ceilings covered in mosaic tiles showcase the grandeur within the spiritual space, while balancing the power of place. The ornate interior



The glistening facade of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Photo by Vik Buriak

evokes emotions of awe and wonder, which proves a point: Beauty has the ability to transcend personal beliefs.

“One of the things that people don’t realize — and every person who walks into this building does exactly the same thing because the building makes you do it — is you walk in the door and you look up,” said Rev. Armand Mantia, head docent and historian at the cathedral. “It’s one of the beauties of Gothic architecture. There are no horizontal lines in the building. Everything is vertical, everything comes to a point, and that’s done on purpose. When you walk through the door, believer or nonbeliever, you are taken up into ‘heaven’ and your eyes go to where we believe God is.”

As if the sights weren’t enough, the sounds that emanate from the largest pipe organ built by Schantz Organ Co. resonates through every inch of the structure, from the Appalachian oak pews to the top of the 106-foot ceilings. The impressive instrument is the biggest pipe organ in New Jersey and features 9,513 pipes, 193 stops and 154 ranks. What does all that mean? The organ packs a musical punch and can produce some of the purest melodies in the world.

But the magnificent journey doesn’t end there.

Five ambulatory chapels on the outskirts of the sanctuary feature influential figures who are a reflection of the ethnic and racial diversity of the Roman Catholic church in the Archdiocese of Newark at the time of completion: St. Patrick (British Isles); St. Lucy Filippini (Italian, Portuguese); St. Boniface (German); St. Stanislaus of Kraków (Polish-Slovak-Hungarian); and St. Anne (Hispanic, African and Asian).

Sandwiched between the St. Lucy Filippini and St. Boniface chapels is the crown jewel of the cathedral: The Lady Chapel. The tabernacle holds the Blessed Sacrament, as well as an altar crafted from Carrara marble and three brilliant chandeliers of hand-cut crystal.

Like most buildings of this nature, some of its secrets are revealed simply by looking up while others are not so plainly in view. At the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, one hidden gem lies just below the surface ... in the crypt, where a treasure trove of history awaits.

The secluded chapel and crypt contain the remains of five former bishops and archbishops of Newark as well as numerous religious relics. It’s truly a sight to see, but be aware that the space is only open to the public for select events.

The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart is located at 89 Ridge St. in Newark. Masses are held daily in English and three days a week in Spanish, but you’ll have to call ahead for a tour of the cathedral, (973) 484-4600.

The cathedral’s concert series also provides opportunities to experience and appreciate one of New Jersey’s architectural wonders. The 49th Annual Candlelight Carol Sing on Dec. 11 and 12 at 8 p.m. (free), as well as the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra’s “Handel’s Messiah” performance (ticketed) are two events not to be missed.

“(The cathedral) is a must-visit destination because it is quite possibly the most beautiful building in the state,” Mantia said. “It is certainly the largest church in the state, and just to have this experience of the beauty of holiness, you need to come here.”

When you do come to enjoy the breathtaking sights and sounds of this grand symbol of strength, just remember that you can only find it ... Just in Jersey.

If you enjoyed this article, watch the video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLUt7oX2dts

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A Message from Pope Francis: Words of Challenge and Hope



[Saints] are like us, they are like each of us, they are people who before reaching the glory of heaven lived a normal life, with joys and griefs, struggles and hopes

Holiness is the manner of living that closely aligns us with God’s will as opposed to the values of the world. If a Christian wants to reach heaven, he or she should ask themselves if they are living for the pleasures of the world, or if they are striving after holiness with all their strength. Let us ask ourselves what side we are on: that of heaven or that of the earth? Do we live for the Lord or for ourselves, for eternal happiness or for some fulfillment now?

Let us ask ourselves: do we really want holiness? Or do we content ourselves with being Christians without disgrace and without praise, who believe in God and esteem others but without going too far? The call to holiness is the opposite of living a mediocre Christian life. In short, either holiness or nothing! (Message for the Solemnity of All Saints 2018)

My Prayer for You

My prayer for this local Church is that we will take Jesus’ words to heart and act on them. Let’s set aside our hesitation and fear. Let’s work together, trusting that if we do what our Lord asks us to do, the results will be truly amazing!

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.

