

GOSPEL PEARLS

The saints are among us

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Jesus said: "Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets whom your fathers killed. So you are witnesses and you consent to the deeds of your fathers, for they killed them, and you build their tombs. Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,' so that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be required of this generation. Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken

away the key of knowledge. You did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering." As he went away from there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to press him hard and to provoke him to speak about many things, lying in wait for him, to catch him in something he might say. (Luke 11: 47-54)

It is easier to identify the holy men whom God has sent to communicate His will to us after they have died. In fact, they are often persecuted in life without being duly recognized as God's prophets. This is because the saints are not supermen. Nor are they extraordinary people or incomparable human beings. In fact, the saints are just like us. Like us, they struggle against the devil and against the world. Sometimes they win, and sometimes they lose. When losing and repentant, they battle back to do good. This is why we need to open our eyes because the saints are among us and can help us. Are you familiar with any of them? If not, think again. You may not have noticed them because of your superficial way of thinking.