

Q. What is the canonization of a saint?

A. It is a solemn and definitive decision by which the sovereign pontiff ranks a person in the number of the saints, and authorizes honors to be paid him throughout the church.

Q. What is necessary in proceeding to the beatification and canonization of a saint?

A. Unquestionable miracles, wrought after the death of the person. Thus the church acts with a prudence wholly divine, which even heretics and the impious are forced to admit.

CHAPTER LII.

Christianity visible.—All-Souls.

Q. What feast do we celebrate the day after All-Saints?

A. The commemoration of all the dead, or All-Souls. By uniting these two feasts the church wishes to remind us that we are all brethren.

Q. Has the church always prayed for the dead?

A. She has always prayed for the dead, offering up the holy sacrifice the day of their death and on the anniversary; she prays for them at every mass, and has instituted a particular feast for the relief of all the dead.

Q. Is this feast of ancient date?

A. It is of the 10th century; it originated in Franche Comte; and St. Odilon, abbot of Cluny, made it obligatory for all the monasteries of his order, whence it prevails throughout the church.

Q. What motives have we to pray for the dead?

A. We have four powerful motives to pray for the dead: the glory of God, charity, justice and our own interest.

Q. What do you remark on the burial service of the dead?