



The Good of the Order

Knights of Columbus Holy Family Council #11981
Charity • Unity • Fraternity • Patriotism

October, 2020

Trick or Treat!

Can you believe that this Saturday night is Halloween?

Halloween is the one day a year where those in the United States dress up in costumes and celebrate "Trick or Treat."

Before this year, parents would accompany their children from door-to-door of family, friends, and neighbors for the "Trick or Treat" ritual. COVID-19 may change things.

You know how it goes, right? The doorbell rings.

You open the door, and a group of kids in costumes all yell out in unison, "Trick or Treat!"

And they expect something.

They expect a treat – candy or money - something sweet to the taste or to the wallet.

Your visitors offer you a choice – give me something that I like, or I'll give you a trick – some mischief that you may not like.

According to Wikipedia.org (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trick-or-treating>), the practice of trick or treating seems to have begun about 90 years ago in the 1930s.

In the United States, the first occurrence of the phrase "Trick or Treat" appeared in 1932 and was first mentioned in a national publication in 1939. In Britain, trick or treating didn't begin until the 1980's.

According to Statista, United States consumers are projected to spend approximately 8 billion dollars on the Halloween season this year. That's down from 8.8 billion last year and 9.1 billion dollars in 2017.

Next Monday, November 2nd, is All Soul's Day. November 2nd is also celebrated as the "Day of the Dead", or Dia de los Muertos.

A 2017 article in the Los Angeles Times said Target, Wal-Mart, and other big retailers were selling Day of the Dead masks, paper plates, and candle holders.

You can find Day of the Dead earrings and necklaces at Party City, costumes and headbands at Spirit Halloween stores, and temporary tattoos and bed covers at Etsy.com.

Beistle Company is a Pennsylvania party goods manufacturer that supplies Day of the Dead products to retailers. In 2007, the company only offered four products for the day. Ten years later, it offered 60 products.



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So, what's the commercial value of All Saints Day, which falls on November 1st, right between Halloween and Day of the Dead?

I googled "Amount of money spent on All Saint's Day" and couldn't find an answer.

Perhaps that is the wrong question to ask.

The Gospel of the day is from the fifth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, the Beatitudes.

Jesus went up the mountain, sat down, and taught His disciples:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven."

"Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted."

"Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the land."

"Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied."

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."

"Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God."

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

"Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for there is the Kingdom of heaven."

"Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad for your reward will be great in heaven."

The Beatitudes are statements of promise and blessing from God. They are no trick. They are Jesus's promises of God's treats for those who put His teachings into practice.

All of us were invited to join the Knights of Columbus. One of our unique qualifications was to be a "practical Catholic man" – a Catholic man who practices the teachings of Jesus and the Catholic Church.

Let's remember who we are this weekend – practical Catholic men, who memore mortis (remember death,) know that tempus fugit (time flies), and follow Jesus.

Let's be the saints who treat others with good works through our charity, unity, and fraternity. And as responsible citizens, let's treat our community and nation to our patriotism by voting in this fall's Presidential and general elections.

Remember, my friends and Brother Knights, you are the Good of the Order.

Submitted by Dave Pipitone, KC Council 11981 October 27, 2020