WEEKLY LETTER FROM MONSIGNOR KEN

One of our family's summer vacations took us to New York State and the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Even though I was only a kid, I had a feeling of awe and mystique looking at all the images and memorabilia of some of the game's greatest. Since then, many more names have been added. Perhaps you have also visited Cooperstown, or, if not, depending on your interests, another Hall of Fame. If you're a fan, such a visit is more than a trip down memory lane. It's a chance to honor those who gave something to us by their talents and accomplishments.

This weekend, the Feast of All Saints falls on Sunday. It will be followed by its companion observance, All Souls. These days are dedicated to the solemn remembrance of special, important people. On All Saint's Day, the Church places before us the heroes of our Faith. On All Soul's Day, we pray for our beloved deceased. On that day we also take time to remember and honor those we not only miss but who had an impact on our lives.

I have some homework for you, a special project for extra credit! I challenge you to build your own personal Hall of Fame. Enshrined in this monument are those people special to you, those who have made a difference or changed your life. This list can include the living as well as the dead. It can be family members, good friends, co-workers, priests or religious, or even people you never met but who had an impact on your life. Of course, I'm not asking you to construct a building or to make sculptures! However, you can collect photos, mementos, or writings. At the very least, you could get a ledger and write the names of your nominees. You can create a special place in your home for this book, or you could have it placed on your table for Thanksgiving, expressing gratitude for these special men and women. The exact nature of your monument depends on you. What is important is to make your own and personal Hall of Fame. You can keep it to yourself, or share it. Such a monument can be even more moving and beautiful than Cooperstown or any other.

"What more shall I say? I have not time to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David, and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, did what was righteous, obtained the promises; they closed the mouths of lions, put out raging fires, escaped the devouring sword, out of weakness they were made powerful, became strong in battle, and turned back foreign invaders." (Hebrews 11:32-34)