

## Saints and Sacraments of the Armenian Church

By Bishop S. Kaloustian

One of the main differences between the Protestant Churches on one hand, and the ancient Apostolic Churches, including the Armenian Church, on the other hand, is that the latter have canonized saints and the former have not.

The first thing we must know about saints is that we do not adore them; we adore God alone. We simply venerate the saints as the true and close followers of Jesus Christ. Just as the state honors and respects its great men and women, so the Church honors its saints.

By honoring the saints, the Church values their love of God and their devotion to His cause on earth.

Saints are to us as models to be imitated, because they were better and closer imitators of Christ. St. Paul says: "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ" (I Corinthians 11:1)

The veneration of saints is really an incentive to better Christian living. Saints were made of the same flesh and blood as we are, meeting the same difficulties and temptations we do in our lives. They were subject to the same infirmities as we are.

Yet they became imitators of Jesus Christ by conquering these infirmities and temptations. That is why they are honored.

