

FAITH matters

November 4, 2024



Fans in the Big House

Over the years, I have come to love All Saints Day.

After the Reformation many of our Protestant denominations threw All Saints out with the bath water, assuming it was just “too Catholic” for us. In more recent years, we have reclaimed it as one of the high holy days in the church year. Every year it takes on more meaning for

me as every year I have more friends on the other side.

The writer of the Book of Hebrews has a wonderful phrase to describe the gathering of the saints— *“Seeing that we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...”* Can you imagine it? We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, like fans in the Big House.

Ok, some of you would prefer Spartan Stadium, and perhaps Notre Dame would be a better analogy with the great mosaic of “Touchdown Jesus” rising above the stadium, but if you will allow, I like to think of the 110,000–faithful gathered in the Big House with only one purpose—to cheer on the team down on the field.

We have fans in the Big House, cheering for us, encouraging us so that we might *“...lay aside every sin that besets us and run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”* (Hebrews 12:1)

The great hymn says it well.

*O may Thy solders faithful, true and bold,
Fight as Thy saints who boldly fought of old,
And win with them the victors crown of God. Alleluia.
O blest communion, fellowship divine,
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine.
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine. Alleluia.
And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia.*

You know, we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, like fans in Big House, cheering us on. And having that faith really does matter.

~Written by Rev. John E. Harnish

Click [HERE](#) to read previous "Faith Matters" articles



8190 Lincoln Rd. Beulah, MI 49617
231.882.4241
www.benziestandrews.com



[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!