Naming Your Saints in Heaven

by Father Oscar "Luke" Lukefahr
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My column, "Unbaptized Babies: Your Saints in Heaven," states that parents should name their children, count them as members of the family, and pray to them often. When I've given this advice to parents whose child died in a miscarriage, they sometimes mention their uncertainty about whether the child is a boy or girl. I suggest: "Ask the child." Often the parents return later with the child's gender and name!

A few months ago I gave a presentation on naming and praying to unbaptized babies, then led a guided meditation on the joy of parents when they meet their children in heaven. After the meditation, a gentleman told me about a child he and his wife had lost in a miscarriage many years before. During the meditation, he received assurance that the child was a boy, James.
The next day I received an email from a mother who had attended the presentation. With her permission I'd like to share Julie's email with you:

"I am the mother of seven children (five biological and two adopted). Each of my five pregnancies were risky as I suffered several miscarriages at various times. Four miscarriages were confirmed because I had been to the doctor or saw the baby on ultrasound before losing them. However, there were times when I believed I had miscarried but had not been to the doctor yet. It has always bothered me that I didn't know how many children I had, whether or not they were boys or girls, and where they were. I needed to connect with them, but they didn't have names. I decided to pray a novena to St. Therese. I asked her to ask God to reveal to me the number and genders of my lost babies. I knew it was a strange thing to pray for and I wondered how I could know the answer and be sure that it was real and not my imagination, so I also added to my request that the answers to my questions would be obvious to me.

The day after I completed my novena is when you gave your talk. It was to be about the Mass, but was I ever surprised and moved that your first topic was about people who have lost children! You mentioned all of the questions I had carried in my heart. God told me, through you, that they are in heaven! When you talked us through the meditation at the end of the evening, you asked us to see the people we love in heaven, including children who were lost in miscarriages. In an instant, I saw six children, four boys and two girls. Before you had finished the prayer, I had named all six of my saints in heaven. Today when I went to work, on my desk was a vase with two pink roses. It was a gift from my boss for Administrative Assistants Day, but I knew it was MUCH more than that.
Now when our family attends Mass together, I will be aware of six additional souls joining us in the celebration...My children in heaven: Justin, Joseph, Andrew, Michael, Philomena, Felicity. How awesome!"

Julie

We celebrate the communion of saints on All Saints Day and All Souls Day. Jesus gives us communion with our saints. As Julie said, "How awesome!"

Taken from an article written on www.amm.org