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All Saints Struggled For the Love of Christ

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Crucifixion Icon. Sinai 13th century

By: Elder Paisius the Athonite

Naturally, the Saints struggled, each one in his own spiritual way, and are now

helping us, each one again in his own holy way. They speak to each soul in its own language, in that which it can understand, in order for it to be profited.

All Saints struggled for the love of Christ. The Holy Martyrs shed their blood, the Righteous Fathers shed their sweat and tears, performed spiritual experiments on themselves, like good botanists*, and were embittered out of their love for the image of God. They left us their spiritual recipes, so as to forestall evil or cure a pre-existing spiritual illness, acquire health, and, if we have enough philotimo (love of honour) to imitate them in their struggles, we can even become saints.

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