All Saints' Day

By Chaplain Corey Thornton

Here we are in the middle of autumn. As winter approaches I begin to anticipate the holiday season.

The first holiday on the list is Halloween which I find to be one of the best times of the year to enjoy our community.

It is always a pleasure to watch my children dress up in their costumes and go door to door throughout the neighborhood trick-or-treating and meeting the neighbors.

Halloween finds its roots in All Hallow's Eve, which is the traditional name for the evening vigil held the night prior to All Saints' Day (traditionally known as All Hallows Day).

Because Halloween has taken on a life of its own, being celebrated more as a social event than as a religious observance, I suspect that many who participate in Halloween might not be well acquainted with All Saints' Day.

Many Christians consider All Saints' Day a major feast day of the church year. Its purpose is to recognize and celebrate what we call "the communion of saints," that cloud of witnesses to the faith with whom God has surrounded us.

Ultimately what this means to Christian is that we are not only members of one another, bound together as a church congregation, but we believe that we are also bound together with all of the Christians from around the world as well as with those who have died.

All of the noteworthy saints of the church, such as St. Peter the apostle, St. Paul the apostle, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, etc., are all part of the family of God, just as are we.

To think that we are not alone but are a part of something much greater--that continues on after death--is an awesome thought.

It is this that we celebrate on All Saints' Day. The celebration takes place on November 1st, but some churches celebrate it the following Sunday.

If you regularly celebrate Halloween but have never attended an All Saints' Day service, come on out to the chapel and join us!

Halloween safety tips to help keep kids safe

From CFAY Safety Office, Recreational, Athletic and Home Safety

Due to the treats given to some of our children, Halloween is their most anticipated activity next to Santa's toys on Christmas. Here's a few safety tips in order to protect our children from unsafe trick or treating:

• Warn children not to eat any treats before an adult has carefully examined them from evidence of tampering.

• Make sure the costumes purchased or made will resist burning or should extinguish quickly once removed from ignition source. Avoid costumes made with flimsy materials and outfits with big, baggy sleeves or billowing skirts.

• Costumes should be light and bright enough to be clearly visible to motorists. Decorate or trim costumes with reflective tape or glow in the dark patches. Costumes should be short enough to prevent from tripping or falling.

Children should wear comfortable walking shoes and their masks/scarf should be securely tied so as not to obscure vision while walking.

Apply natural mask of cosmetics (check for allergies) if masks are loose or might restrict breathing. Swords, knives and similar accessories should be soft and flexible.

• All children should walk and not run from house to house, use sidewalk if available rather than walk on the street. Motorists should be cautioned from children running in between parked cars. Make sure they carry flashlights to make sure they see where they are going.

• Children should go only to homes of known residents and those whose outside lights are on as a sign of "Welcome".

Remember, young children should always be accompanied or supervised by adults or older responsible child when trick or treating.

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Spray-on protective coating wins "R&D 100" award

By Katherine H. Crawford,
Office of Naval Research,
Corporate Strategic Communications Office

ARLINGTON, Va. – R&D Magazine honored an Office of Naval Research (ONR) scientist with a 2011 "R&D 100" award Oct. 13 for the development of a revolutionary coating material that is blast-and fire-resistant.

The special high-tech surface technology, HybridSil Fire/Blast, acts like a force field that surrounds and protects any type of surface, making it blast, ballistic and fire resistant.

"You can take an existing material and change it completely to make it more useful for the war fighter," said award recipient Dr. Roshdy George S. Barsoum, ONR's manager, Explosion-Resistant Coating, Ships and Engineering Systems Division. "Receiving this award is recognition that we are developing something that the warfighter can really use and exploit."

The coating is sprayed onto surfaces just like paint, with minimal surface preparation. It is applied in variable thicknesses: less for fireproofing and more for blast-resistance. But the tricky part is that the law of diminishing returns is at work; at some point, the more you apply, the less effective it becomes. Determining the appropriate amount for each surface and user need is complex, Barsoum said.

The Navy is particularly interested in the material's fire-resistant properties, since fires, along with floods, present the greatest threats on a ship or submarine. The Army and Air Force have also been investigating its use to protect buildings against vehicle-borne explosive devices.

The coating was developed with industry partner NanoSonic Inc, and the cost per gallon is equivalent to premium house paint. It can be used on new and old materials alike, making it easy to apply to existing ships or vehicles.

The research into this coating began after the bombing of *USS Cole* (DDG 67) Oct. 12, 2000. The Navy wanted to find new ways of protecting ships, including coatings and polymers that could shield against explosions and fire. The research took off after 9/11, and the new defensive coating was applied to the rebuilt sections of the Pentagon.

According to R&D Magazine's website, the R&D 100 awards identify and celebrate the top high-technology products of the year, spanning industry, academia and government-sponsored research. Winning products include sophisticated testing equipment, innovative new materials, chemistry breakthroughs, biomedical products, consumer items and high-energy physics.

ONR provides the science and technology necessary to maintain the Navy and Marine Corps' technological advantage. Through its affiliates, ONR is a leader in science and technology with engagement in 50 states, 70 countries, 1,035 institutions of higher learning and 914 industry partners. ONR employs approximately 1,400 people, comprising uniformed, civilian and contract personnel, with additional employees at the Naval Research Lab in Washington, D.C.