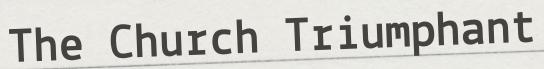
The Communion of Saints refers to the three states of the Church. "When the Lord comes in glory, and all his angels with him, death will be no more and all things will be subject to him. But at the present time some of his disciples are

The Church Militant

The Church Militant refers to the members of the Church on Earth. We are also referred to as the Pilgrim Church because we are still on the journey toward eternal salvation. We are "militant" because we engage in a constant spiritual battle against evil.



The Church Triumphant are
those of the Church who
already share in the
eternal glory of heaven.
These are saints who are
models of holiness.
Because they enjoy God's
immediate presence, we
often turn to them for
intercessory prayer.

pilgrims on Earth. Others have died and are being purified, while still others are in glory, contemplating in full light, God himself triune and one, exactly as he is" (CCC 954).

The Church Suffering

The Church Suffering refers
to souls who died in the
state of grace and are
enduring the process of
being prepared for heaven.
The souls in purgatory
suffer purification, but
their greatest suffering is
the longing for union with
God in heaven. We can
assist these souls with our
prayers and indulgences.

