All Saints Day

By Hap Hansen

I will try to explain the difference between All Saints Day and Halloween. You must remember, however, that I consider myself an Episcopalian, although a partially fallen one. Some of you have heard what an Episcopalian is. An Episcopalian is a former Roman Catholic who flunked Latin!

Now, for All Saints Day. All Saints Day probably started in the fourth century. It is a celebration of all Christian Saints, including honoring those Saints who have no special feast day of their own. It is a solemn, Holy Day of the Catholic Church and some Anglican and Protestant religions. It's also known as All Hallows Day, Hallowmas, Feast of All Saints and others. It is celebrated on November first of each year. The evening before, October 31st, is known as All Hallows Eve.

Now comes the first questions: How did All Hallows Eve become Halloween? When did we go from praising All Saints to kids going from door to door in their neighborhoods with masks, some of which are frightening, and hollering "Trick or Treat"? I doubt if very many kids today have ever heard of All Hallows Eve.

Some more questions: Why is Halloween supposed to be scary? Why are carved pumpkins usually displayed? Why do some kids wear clown masks? Why do some older kids and adults go on sprees of lawlessness striking fear into some? Unfortunately, as a result, the clown, Ronald McDonald, has been placed into temporary absence. And some major department stores, including Target, have stopped selling clown masks, due to some frightening circumstances.

It's time to bring some sense into the situation. Let the Catholics and Protestants observe and acknowledge All Saints Day. Let's let the kids roam their neighborhoods, safe and secure, hollering ''Trick or Treat'' and filling their pumpkin bags with candy.

I'm not sure I explained all of this correctly. But then I have a very good excuse. I flunked Latin!