

“Interventions”



St. John of Shanghai and the Demonic Holiday of Halloween



On the evening before October 19 (Nov. 1), 1964, the Russian Church Abroad celebrated the solemn canonization of Father John of Kronstadt, whom Vladika [St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco] greatly venerated, taking an active part in the compiling of the service and Akathist to him.

The Roman Catholic Church celebrates on this day the feast of All Saints, and there is a tradition that during the preceding night the dark spirits celebrated their own festival of disorder. In America, this “Halloween” has become an occasion on which children make mischief dressed in costumes of witches, devils, ghosts as if calling on the dark powers — a diabolic mockery of Christianity.

A group of Russians organized on this night (which was also the eve of Sunday) a Halloween Ball. In the San Francisco Cathedral at the time of the All-night Vigil celebrated to St. John of Kronstadt, a number of people were absent, to the great sorrow of Vladika.

After the service, Vladika went to the place where the ball was still in progress. He climbed the steps and entered the hall, to the absolute astonishment of the participants. The music stopped and Vladika, in complete silence, glared at the dumbfounded people, slowly and deliberately making the



round of the entire hall, staff in hand. He spoke not a word, and none was necessary; the mere sight of Vladika stung the conscience of all, as was evident from the general consternation. Vladika left in silence. The next day in church he thundered his holy indignation and his flaming zeal calling all to the devout Christian life.

Source: Father Seraphim (Rose), *Blessed John the Wonderworker: A Preliminary Account of the Life and Miracles of Archbishop John Maximovitch* (St. Herman of Alaska Brotherhood, Platina, California: 1987), pp. 57-58.