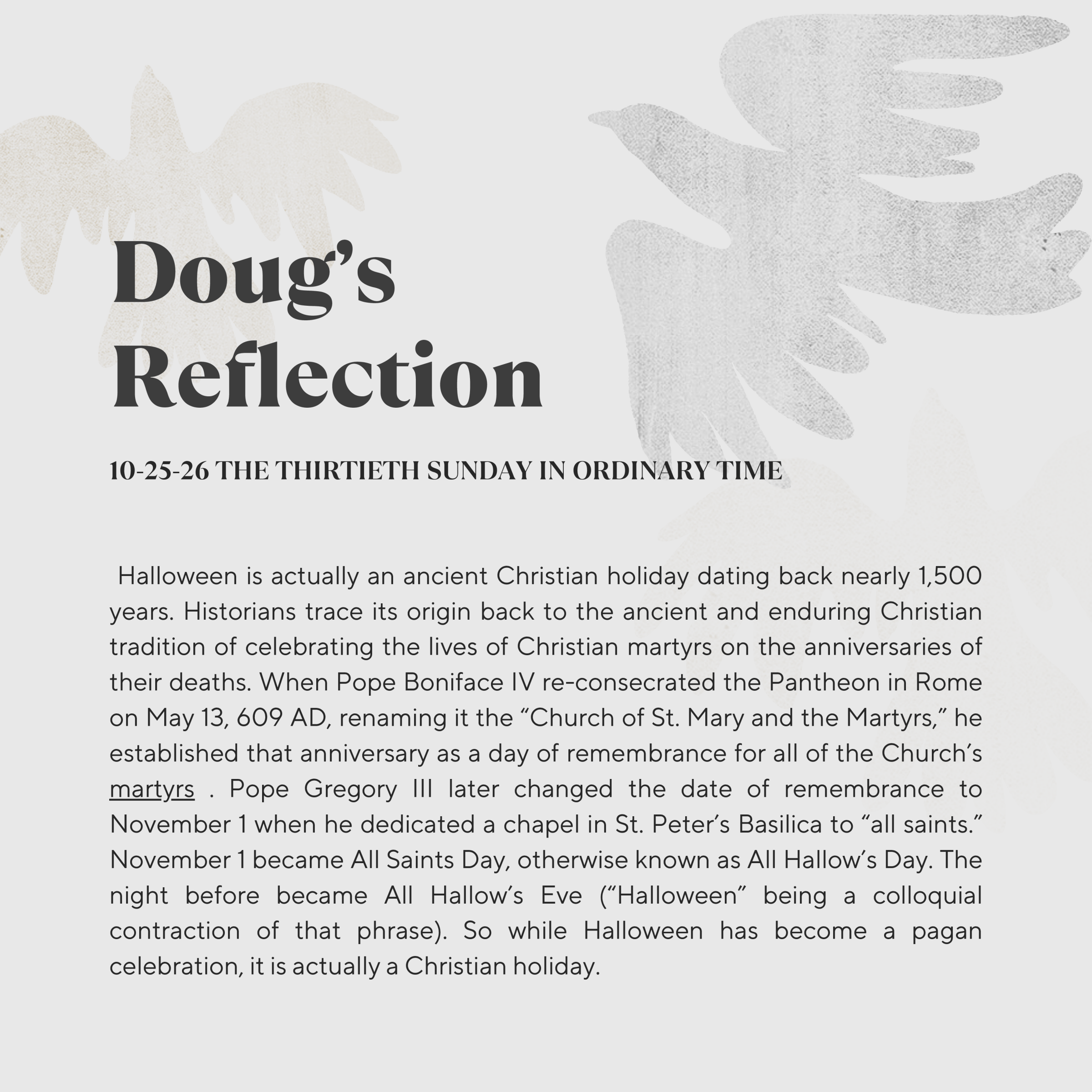




Doug's Reflection

10-25-26 THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Halloween is actually an ancient Christian holiday dating back nearly 1,500 years. Historians trace its origin back to the ancient and enduring Christian tradition of celebrating the lives of Christian martyrs on the anniversaries of their deaths. When Pope Boniface IV re-consecrated the Pantheon in Rome on May 13, 609 AD, renaming it the “Church of St. Mary and the Martyrs,” he established that anniversary as a day of remembrance for all of the Church’s martyrs . Pope Gregory III later changed the date of remembrance to November 1 when he dedicated a chapel in St. Peter’s Basilica to “all saints.” November 1 became All Saints Day, otherwise known as All Hallow’s Day. The night before became All Hallow’s Eve (“Halloween” being a colloquial contraction of that phrase). So while Halloween has become a pagan celebration, it is actually a Christian holiday.