**Discussion Questions**

**Lives of the Saints**

**With reference to the novel (and citing page numbers) please answer the following question. You may want to review concepts discussed in earlier handouts, e.g. image, symbol, motif, theme.**

1. Describe the narrative technique used to tell the story.
2. To what extent is Vitto a reliable narrator?
3. What are five images of economic decline?
4. What are 5 other images in the novel?
5. What are three symbols in the novel?
6. What are three pairs of things, people, places that are contrasted in the novel. Describe each pair.
7. Describe the Peasant’s world view
8. What is Vitto’s attitude toward his mother? How do you know?
9. What is Vitto’s attitude towards his father? How do you know?
10. What is Vitto’s family’s social standing? How and why is it changing?
11. What is the major theme in the novel? When does it become apparent?
12. What are two other themes in the novel?