ALL SAINTS DAY

Oct. 31 / Nov. 1

The Holiness We Are Called to Become

This weekend much of the world is occupied with Halloween, a day that has become increasingly disconnected from its Christian roots. **BUT** for us as Catholics, this weekend holds a far deeper and more sacred meaning. Tonight is (Yesterday was) All Hallows' Eve, the vigil of All Saints' Day. And while the world gives so much attention to darkness, fear, and death, the Church directs our eyes toward something infinitely greater: **the glory of heaven, the triumph of holiness, and the extraordinary destiny God has prepared for each one of us.**

Tonight (Today), the Church celebrates one of the most beautiful truths of our faith: Heaven is **not** reserved for a privileged few. **Heaven IS what God desires for every one of us.** Tonight (Today), we celebrate all the saints. Not only the great names we recognize - St. Peter, St. Francis, St. Teresa of Calcutta … but countless others whose names have been forgotten by history yet are known and loved by God. Perhaps among them is **a mother who quietly sacrificed everything for her children.** A father who worked tirelessly to provide for his family. **A grandmother who prayed her rosary every evening.** Someone who suffered terribly but never stopped trusting God. The world never knew their names. **But heaven does.**

And that is what makes THIS feast so extraordinary. The saints were not extraordinary people who never struggled. They were ordinary people who allowed God to do extraordinary things with their lives. They knew temptation. They experienced disappointment. They carried wounds, regrets, and fears. Some made terrible mistakes. Some spent years running away from God. But somewhere along the way, they discovered something that changed everything: **God was not asking them to be perfect before He would love them. He was asking them to let His love make them holy.**

And that same invitation is being offered to us tonight (today). Sometimes we imagine holiness belongs to someone else. We look at the saints and think, **"I could never be like them."** But holiness is not about performing miracles or doing something spectacular. **Sometimes holiness is a spouse choosing to forgive each other.** A mother finding the strength to love when she is exhausted. **A person resisting bitterness after being deeply hurt.** Someone quietly kneeling beside their bed and whispering, **"Lord, I am struggling, but I still trust You." These are the moments when saints are being made.**

And here is something I find deeply moving. Every saint in heaven was once exactly where we are now. They sat in churches. They listened to homilies. They worried about tomorrow. They wondered whether God really heard their prayers. And now, they see Him face to face.

Imagine that moment. Imagine standing before Jesus and finally seeing the face of the One who carried you through every sorrow, forgave every sin, and never stopped calling you home. Imagine hearing Him say, **"Well done, good and faithful servant."** No more fear. No more shame. No more wondering whether you are loved. Only the overwhelming joy of knowing that you have finally come home.

My brothers and sisters, All Saints' Day is not simply a celebration of what God has done for others. **It is a revelation of what God longs to do for us.** The saints are not there to make us feel small. They are there to remind us of what is possible through grace.
So tonight (today), ask yourself: **If heaven is truly my destination, am I living as someone who wants to get there?**

Because one day, by God's grace, may we stand among the saints, look into the face of Jesus, and know that every struggle, every sacrifice, and every act of faith was worth it. **For in that moment … we will finally be home.**