

# THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS DAY (Nov 1, 2020)

(Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a) Homily by Fr. Maraiiah

**The feast and its objectives:** All baptized Christians who have died and are now with God in glory are considered saints. All Saints Day is intended to honor the memory of countless unknown and uncanonized saints who have no feast days. Today we thank God for giving ordinary men and women a share in His holiness and Heavenly glory as a reward for their Faith. This feast is observed to teach us to honor the saints, both by imitating their lives and by seeking their intercession for us before Christ, the only mediator between God and man (1 Tm 2:5). The Church reminds us today that God's call for holiness is universal, that all of us are called to live in His love and to make His love real in the lives of those around us. Holiness is related to the word wholesomeness. We grow in holiness when we live wholesome lives of integrity, truth, justice, charity, mercy, and compassion, sharing our blessings with others.

**Reasons why we honor the saints:** 1- **The saints put their trust in Christ and lived heroic lives of Faith.** St. Paul asks us to serve and honor such noble souls. In his Epistles to the Corinthians, to Philip and to Timothy, he advises Christians to welcome, serve and honor those who have put their trust in Jesus. The saints enjoy Heavenly bliss as a reward for their Faith in Jesus. Hence, they deserve our veneration of them.

2- **The saints are our role models.** They teach us by their lives that Christ's holy life of love, mercy and unconditional forgiveness can, with the grace of God, be lived by ordinary people from all walks of life and at all times.

3- **The saints are our Heavenly mediators who intercede for us before Jesus, the only mediator between God and us.** (Jas 5:16-18, Ex 32:13, Jer 15:1, Rv 8:3-4). 4- **The saints are the instruments that God uses to work miracles at present,** just as He used the staff of Moses (Ex), the bones of the prophet Elisha (2Kgs 13:21), the towel of Paul (Acts 19:12) and the shadow of Peter (Acts 5:15) to work miracles.

**Life messages:** 1) We need to accept the challenge to become saints. Jesus exhorts us: "*Be perfect as your Heavenly Father is Perfect*" (Mt 5:48). St. Augustine asked: "If he and she can become saints, why can't I?" (*Siste et ista, cur non ego?*). We all can become saints by choosing well by doing good and avoiding evil, by choosing to follow Christ, all the way to heaven.

2) We need to take the shortcuts practiced by three Saints: **i) St. Teresa of Avila:** Recharge your spiritual batteries every day by prayer, namely, listening to God and talking to Him. **ii) St. Therese of Lisieux:** Convert every action into prayer by offering it to God for His glory and for the salvation of souls and by doing God's will to the best of your ability. **iii) St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa):** Do ordinary things with great love. Do something beautiful for God.