

## All Souls Day: The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed

Thursday, November 2, 2006, we commemorated and prayed for all the Faithful Departed, that is, those who have departed this mortal life in the state of sanctifying grace, and thus in friendship with God, but whose entrance into Heaven is temporally delayed due to unatoned-for sins, venial or mortal. These have departed this life with either unforgiven venial sin on their soul, or they have not yet fully paid the debt of temporal punishment due to the serious sins which they had committed during life, although these were repented of and confessed. They are saved, but as Scripture says, "Yet so as by fire," for nothing defiled can enter into Heaven. Death, unfortunately, finds most souls not pure enough for the Beatific Vision, and therefore these must pass through the purifying sufferings of Purgatory, which cleanses the soul of the stain of sin, and makes adequate atonement and satisfaction for all the moral infidelities committed during life.

All Soul's Day (and the entire month of November) is especially dedicated to the remembrance of these poor suffering souls. The thought of them should excite in our hearts deep compassion, for they are completely unable to alleviate their own sufferings in any way. They cannot do penance, cannot merit, cannot satisfy, cannot receive sacraments, and cannot gain indulgences. They cannot even pray for themselves. They are completely helpless. They can only accept and offer their own suffering as satisfaction. But, God, in His Goodness and loving Mercy, has made us, who are still "in the flesh," almost all powerful in their regard, for we have the ability to relieve them of some, or all, of their sufferings by our prayer and penance. God desires these holy souls in Heaven. They are His beloved children. He wants to bestow on them their eternal reward, but His Justice demands that satisfaction be first made for their sins. This satisfaction is either done by their passive suffering in Purgatory, or by us, vicariously, that is, by praying and doing penance on their behalf. "It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from sin." Let us, in all charity, be generous in procuring for the faithful departed, either complete release from this realm of pain, or at least some alleviation of their intense suffering by offering up our prayers, communions, and acts of self-denial, as well as having Masses offered for them. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy." Perhaps many of these souls we have personally known in life. This is all the more reason to be charitable and generous, as St. Ambrose said: "We have loved them in life, let us not forget them in death." But whether known or unknown, they are our suffering brothers and sisters in Christ.

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1. **CATECHISM CLASS:** Children 6 to 14 please meet Father Joseph in the vestibule right after the 10:00 Mass.
  2. There will be **NO** 5:00 PM Sunday Vespers this afternoon.
  3. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-ins of our Chapels. LET US ALSO PRAY FOR EVERYONE.
  4. **MASSES FOR THE WEEK:** (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)
    - SUNDAY: For the People of our Chapels
    - MONDAY: Special intention Margaret Rosenberg
    - TUESDAY: Deceased Anna Faltinowski
    - WEDNESDAY: For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
    - THURSDAY: Special intention Joseph Westrick
    - FRIDAY: Special intention John and Rita Dumbacher
    - SATURDAY: Deceased Eugene Koster
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### **HEROIC ACT OF CHARITY FOR THE POOR SOULS IN PURGATORY**

The Faithful are encouraged to make this most wonderful promise, intended for the welfare of the Souls in Purgatory. It is certainly not a matter of obligation, and if the offering is made, it must be made freely, privately, and without show. It is an act of TOTAL giving of every personal propitiatory benefit, whether personally earned or received as a gift from others – DURING ONE'S LIFETIME, AND AFTER DEATH AS WELL! **NOTHING** is reserved for one's own benefit.

**"If a man devotes his life to working either directly or indirectly for the salvation of souls, and reaches such a degree of detachment from self that without neglecting his own perfection he leaves to others the merit of his actions, prayers, and suffering ... that man draws down abundant graces on the world ... he himself reaches a high degree of sanctity, far higher than he would have attained had he sought only his own advancement."**  
(Words of Our Lord Himself to Sister Josefa Menéndez, in *The Way of Divine Love*)

*The faithful who make the Heroic Act of Charity for the Poor Souls in Purgatory, may gain a PLENARY INDULGENCE, applicable only to the dead, on any day they (1) attend Mass, (2) receive Holy Communion, (3) pray for the intentions of the Sovereign Pontiff, and (4) make a good confession often.*

#### ***Heroic Act of Charity for the Poor Souls:***

O my God, in union with the merits of Jesus and Mary, I offer Thee, for the Souls in Purgatory, all my propitiatory works, and all those which others may apply to me during my life or after my death. I beseech Thee, O my God, to accept this offering, for Thy honor and for the salvation of my soul. Amen.