

**LORD, THIS IS THE PEOPLE
WHO HAVE LONGED TO
SEE YOUR FACE!**

*Solemnity of
All Saints*



San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

November 1, 2015

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

It is no accident that the Gospel of Matthew has Jesus go “up the mountain”, traditionally a place associated with divine encounter, to teach the Beatitudes to his disciples. The Beatitudes reveal the very Being of God (“Blessed”, holy), God’s care for God’s beloved people (“poor in spirit”, “those who mourn”, etc.), God’s intent for faithful ones (“theirs is the kingdom of heaven”). The



Tapestry of Communion of Saints, Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral, Los Angeles, California

Beatitudes reveal the mind and heart of God. Those who have encountered God and lived the Beatitudes have the same mind and heart. We call them “saints”. There is a countless multitude of saints in heaven singing God’s praises. There is a countless multitude of saints here among us who are “God’s children now” who have embraced the beatific, Godlike way of living. While this feast day primarily honors the saints who have gone before us, we cannot forget ourselves on this day. They have gone before us where we hope to go.

Words to reflect upon: saints here among us

Amen.

**Blessing and glory, wisdom and
thanksgiving, honor, power, and might
be to our God forever and ever.**

Amen

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers,
intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,*

1 Timothy 2:1

*Please
pray for
the sick*

**Let us pray together today for the chronically
ill:** Sylvia Tasner, Jerry and Albert Vega, Fr. Vega,
Rudy & Sonia Méndez, **Maggie Maziarz** and Peter
and Leida Fiorito.

LIVING THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

The Suffering, Death and Resurrection of Christ And Our Participation In It...

We often think of the saints as out-of-this-world holy people who are far beyond our own experience or sense of our own goodness. When we pray the Litany of the Saints we ask the intercession of very many saints who lived centuries ago in a very different time and culture. They seem far away. Today’s solemnity reminds us that at one time they were ordinary people just like us, living ordinary lives in faithfulness to Gospel values.

This festival is one of encouragement—God doesn’t judge us only on our weaknesses but on our persevering in a willingness to live as God’s blessed children. The simple, everyday things we do well wash us in the blood of the Lamb (first reading). Our smile is a saintly one. Our gesture of kindness is an expression of blessedness. Our humility is Godlike. Others’ holy gestures toward us are reminders that there is glory awaiting us. To each of us who embraces our blessedness: ours “is the kingdom of heaven”.

**Words to reflect upon: this festival is one of
encouragement**

Praying with Scripture

Gospel - Matthew 5:1-12a



In recalling the beatitudes in his homily, Pope Francis pointed out that they represent “an identity card for Christians,” a program to be practiced. How do you practice hunger for righteousness? Mercy?

... a program for life offered to us by Jesus: So simple and yet so difficult. ... Few words, simple words, but practical for all. Because Christianity is a practical religion: it is not just to be imagined, it is to be practiced. If you have some time at home today, take the Gospel, Matthew’s Gospel, chapter five. At the beginning there are the Beatitudes; in chapter 25 the rest. And it will do you good to read them once, twice, three times. Read this program for holiness. May the Lord give us the grace to understand his message.

*Homily at Monday morning Mass at Casa Santa Marta,
June 6, 2014*

THE HOLY YEAR OF MERCY

When he announced the extraordinary Holy Year, a Jubilee of Mercy, recently, Pope Francis said that he was “convinced that **the whole church can find in this jubilee the joy of rediscovering and making fruitful the mercy of God, with which we are all called to give consolation to every man and every woman of our time**”. Francis has been called the Pope of Mercy ever since his election on March 13, 2013. He has frequently proclaimed to the world the God of mercy, who wants to save people, not to condemn them.



Mercy is a theme that has surfaced again and again in his talks and homilies throughout the past two years. Examples: “I believe that this is the season of mercy.” “The church is a mother; she has to go out to heal those who are hurting, with mercy.” “If the Lord never tires of forgiving, we have no other choice than this: first of all, to care for those who are hurting.” “The church’s way has always been the way of Jesus, the way of mercy and reinstatement.” “The way of the church is not to condemn anyone for eternity. It is to pour out the balm of God’s mercy on all those who ask for it with a sincere heart.” “Mercy is not just a pastoral attitude; it is the very substance of the Gospel.”

Blessed are you, God of Mercy!

WHY PRAY?

The function of prayer is not to obliterate the self. It is to become the utmost of what we are meant to be no matter what situation we are in. Prayer is the process that leads us to become what Jesus models for us to be.

We watch Jesus confront the leaders of the day. He calls the priests and Pharisees to cleanse the temple and lift from the backs of the people the laws of the synagogue that burden them. He calls the leaders of the state to stop living off the backs of the poor. And he calls us to do the same.

We listen to Jesus jeopardize his social approval, risk his very life by speaking out in public against the oppression of people in both synagogue and state. And he calls us to do the same.

Being immersed in prayer, really immersed in prayer, sears our souls. It forces us to see how far from our own ideals we stand. It challenges the images of goodness and piety and integrity we project. It confronts us with what it really means to live a good life. It requires courage of us rather than simply piety.

It is in following Jesus down from the mountaintop, along the roads of the world, through the public parts of the city, into the ghettos of the poor and the halls of government and the chanceries of the churches, saying with John the Baptist, “Repent and sin no more,” that prayer gets its hallmark of undisputed credibility. — Joan Chittister OSB

Do you agree? What has your experience of prayer been like?

— THE LITURGICAL CORNER

Two very special November days are celebrated this week: All Saints Day—a day celebrating victory-- on November 1st and All Souls Day—a day celebrating hope-- on November 2nd.

Tomorrow is **All Souls Day**, the feast day the Church offers us to remember and celebrate the lives of those who have gone before us, “that great cloud of witnesses who surround us” (Hebrews 12:1) and support us with their prayers. Of course, there is sadness when a friend or family member dies, but, in the end, it is faith that enables us to surrender our mourning and be joyful in our memories. Secure in the knowledge of God’s love, our hearts can be at peace as we entrust those who have gone before us to God. The most beautiful tribute we can give to a deceased loved one is a loving memory that is nourished by prayer, gratitude and ever-deepening affection.

Such affection is clearly evident in the jazz funerals of New Orleans. Influenced by African, French and African-American traditions, these funerals achieve a fine balance between grief and joyful celebration. Mourners are led by a band comprised of several different instruments. At first, the band plays sorrowful songs, but after the deceased has been interred, the mood changes. The band plays upbeat songs like “When the Saints Go Marching In” while others are welcomed to join the parade. A symbol of life, a symbol of death, and a symbol of rebirth, the New Orleans jazz funeral salutes a life well lived and the passage of a departed soul into a better world.

Let us remember and be glad!

On Wednesday, November 4 Fr. Larry will lead a Community EUCHARISTIC SERVICE called “TAIZE”; in the temple at 7:00pm. All Invited.

Agnes Dei is a beautiful prayer:

“Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.” Have mercy on us, because we know where the sins of the world are coming from — from us!



But, hey, we’re still on the road to being a better Christian. Moreover, the church is still on the road to being a better Christian. The parish is still on the road to being better Christians. We’re all still on the road...

—Joan Chittister OSB