

## All Saints Day

A man from New Zealand dies and goes to heaven. As he arrives there an angel is waiting for him to give him a tour. They enter through the golden gates and go inside a big bright building. There were a big number of clocks running at different speeds and the man was puzzled. He asked the angel what they were. The angel said: "Here are the clocks of every country, they measure corruption. The more corrupt the country is the faster it's clock goes!" Amazed, the man wanders around the room but he notices something and asks the angel: "Where is our country's clock?" And the angel says: "Oh, God is using it as a cooling fan!"

Dear Friends,

Today we remember all saints Day. It is the day to remember all canonized and uncanonized people who lived before us and became closer to God in their lives by way of holiness. There are numerous saints. We remember some of them on their feast days. There are so many who rendered their lives for Christ. In a way, all the baptized Christians are called to be a saint.

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.

The readings help us to reflect about the role and their participation of Christ suffering and glory. The first reading from the book of Revelation talks the vision of the writer about the glories of God and explains of those who bore the suffering for Christ and washed themselves in the blood of Jesus Christ.

The second reading gives us hope to become like him based on our faith. We will become pure as he is pure. That is the reward we all get beyond this life.

The Gospel today talks about the beatitude. It explains God's different characters in us when we realize that we are doing any one of those realities in our life. We are all blessed before God. There are nine beatitudes mentioned in the Gospel which portrays to us our human and divine nature. The first four beatitudes mention our disposition before God, the last five explains our responsibility in the community for God. The rewards are in

heaven. These saints have received their rewards because they stood before God and took up their responsibility for the community in different ways.

Today, as Christians, by baptism we are called to do the same. The saints that you knew, heard, read were the role models in different things. They are helping us to take up their routes. For Example: St. Theresa of Avila, St. Theresa of Lisieux and St. Theresa of Calcutta. They are not the same. Each one was admired for different reasons.

Recently Pope Francis has declared a Blessed, Carlo Acutis, a fourteen-year-old kid who was called a computer geek for his passion and love for the Eucharist. He was beatified on October 10, 2020.

So let us ask the intercession of our saints to grow in holiness and getting closer to God in our lives. Pope Francis said, "we glimpse our future and celebrate what we were born for; we were born to never die again, we were born to enjoy the happiness of God."