

REFLECTION FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 — All Souls' Day

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we celebrate the commemoration of All the Faithful Departed. Yesterday we remembered those who already enjoy the holiness of God in the eternal dwellings — our saints, an innumerable multitude from every people, race, language, and nations that no one can count. Today, we remember the Faithful Departed, all those who have already gone to the Father: our family members, friends, acquaintances...

Today we are faced, then, with the final experience of our life — death. When it comes, it brings the longing of departure, surprise, sorrow... But for us Christians, “if the sadness of death grieves us, we are comforted by the promise of immortality.” It was Christ who promised us that whoever dies with Him will also live with Him forever. And He Himself passed through death, but rose again, showing us that love conquers death itself, and that if we live in His love, we too will conquer death with Him and live with Him forever in eternity, living the fullness of love, the fullness of Life.

This is the message that today’s readings convey to us — a message of hope for a life that is full in God, in eternity.

In the first reading, we hear Job, who in the midst of his pain, sickness, and loneliness, exclaims:

“For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and at the last he will stand upon the earth.
And after my skin has been thus destroyed,
yet in my flesh I shall see God,
whom I shall see for myself,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.”

Job thus proclaims his faith in the God of life and his hope of one day seeing Him, of contemplating Him. This is also our faith: one day we shall behold the Lord face to face, when our pilgrimage on earth comes to its end. Therefore, we proclaim in the responsorial psalm:

“I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.”

In the second reading, Saint Paul, writing to the Corinthians, says to them:

“He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. ... For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”

This is our hope, which comes to us from faith in Jesus Christ, who died and rose again for us.

And while we continue our journey on earth, let us trust in Jesus Christ, placing in Him all our hope, entrusting to Him our sorrows and anxieties, because He Himself says in the Gospel we have heard:

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Remembering our Faithful Departed, let us give thanks to God for the life they lived, for the gifts they cultivated, for the love they shared. Let us pray for them, and may they, before God, pray for us, strengthening our hope that one day we may all be reunited, living eternal love with God for ever and ever.

AMEN.