



Your comments are welcome!

135 West 31st New York, New York 10001
www.hnp.org/fmu

FMUmission@aol.com

1-888-372-6478

Dear Friend of the Missions,

In November, the Church remembers those who have died in a special way. I am sure that you are praying for your loved ones. We are praying for them too. The month will be busy with Thanksgiving and the serious beginning of all the preparations we go through for Christmas. Keep some time for prayer and reflection. It will help you through all of the distractions. The month begins with All Saints Day and All Souls Day. Thanksgiving is November 22. The Solemnity of Christ the King is celebrated on November 26. To make things better or worse depending on how you feel about it all, the general elections will take place on November 7. Pray for our government, for all our service men and women who are overseas in dangerous situations, and pray for peace. Thank you for all you do for our missionaries, we are most grateful and keep you all in our prayers.



***Have a happy
Thanksgiving!***

For all the saints...

By Fr. Russell Becker, OFM

Let us all rejoice in the Lord and keep a festival in honor of all the saints. Let us rejoice with the angels in joyful praise of the Son of God

[Entrance Antiphon for the Solemnity]

On November First, the Church gathers to celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints. We remember and celebrate the men and women who have gone before us, and who have showed us that it is possible to live according to the Gospel in every kind of situation. In remembering them, we also recall that the promises of salvation are certainly kept by God. It is a festival which remembers the past, helps us to be more faithful in the present, and gives us all hope for the future.



Those whom God foreknew God predestined to share the image of his Son, that the Son might be the first of many brothers and sisters.

Those God predestined, God likewise called; those God called, God also justified, and those God justified, God in turn glorified.

[Romans 8,29-30]



Remembering the Past. The commemoration of all the saints finds its origins in the East, very early in the history of the Church. The celebration was closely associated with the Easter Season. Various dates were used: the Friday after Easter, the Sunday after Pentecost. The feast originally celebrated the early martyrs. This commemoration always reminded the community that it is possible to imitate the Lord, even in death, forgiving our persecutors.

Rome adopted the feast and celebrated it in association with the dedication of the Pantheon, a pagan temple given to the Church by the Emperor Phocas. This took place on May 13th. It was considered a good time because it always fell in the Easter Season. In the 9th century, the feast was extended to remember all the saints and was moved to November 1st in the harvest season, probably for the practical reason of insuring enough food for those pilgrims who came to celebrate this festival. The idea of harvest as a symbol for salvation did not go unnoticed and eventually both this feast (near the end of the harvest) and the feast of the Assumption of Mary (at the beginning of the harvest) provided a liturgical setting for the harvest time. It is the Church's equivalent of Thanksgiving Day.

The community recalls all those men and women who have gone before them, those who were able to hear the Word of God and keep it. As our ancestors and their successes and failures are recalled, the community recognizes the rich legacy of faith passed on not only in word, but in deed. It is not a bad idea to remember how we stand on a firm foundation of our ancestors in the faith with Christ as the cornerstone.

We are children of the saints, and we await that life which God will give to those who never change their faith in him

[Tobit 1,18]

Help for the Present. The Church has always held up the saints as models and intercessors. The saints were those men and women who had grasped the vision of the Gospel and who were, at the same time, seized by that vision. They represent every kind of life, and their saintliness shows that the power of the Gospel can be lived as every area of life as we find it today. When the possibility of seeing the Gospel lived in our time, and even in our own lives, seems remote, the saints remind us that every obstacle can be overcome.





The Tradition has value in every age and can be lived intensely. The saints give us the courage to try to find ways of living the Tradition that is best suited to our times. (The Church does not encourage us to necessarily use their ways of living the Tradition, but encourages us to try with their determination and faith to make the Tradition come alive, as they did.) The saints also stood prophetically against everything of their age which denied the Tradition and tell us that we can do the same thing. Styles of saintliness may vary from age to age, but saintliness is ageless.

The Church also recommends the saints to us as intercessors. We can confidently invoke them as brothers and sisters in Christ, tell them our needs and ask their intercession with God who is the giver of all that is good. This can be done with confidence because of the solidarity of all who belong to Christ. For Christians, no human being lives alone. We believe, that in Christ, every life has value in God's sight, and is lived for the sake of all. We can count on the help of our brothers and sisters, who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith.

Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much as dawned on us what God has prepared for those who love God.

[1 Corinthians 2,9]

Hope for the Future. When we celebrate this festival we are proclaiming again the hope of the resurrection which is held out to us. The harvest theme which is associated with the celebration places before us the Second Coming of the Lord which will bring about the consummation of all things. As we celebrate the promise of salvation fulfilled for the saints, we have hope: the promise is ours and God keeps promises. We stand on the shoulders of these men and women and believe that, with their help, we too will join them. It gives us hope also that those faithful people who were close to us and who have died will also be with us in heaven.

Let us pray.

All-holy God, you call your people to holiness.

*As we keep the festival of your saints,
give us their meekness and poverty of spirit,
a thirst for righteousness, and purity of heart.*

*May we share with them the riches of your kingdom
and be clothes with the glory you bestow.*

*Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,*

God for ever and ever.

[Prayer for the Feast]

This Festival celebrates a communion which transcends time and space, a moment of timelessness which gives us strength to struggle with faithfulness in time.

The Saints in each generation, joined to those who have gone before and filled with light, become a golden chain, in which each saint is a separate link, united to the next by faith and works and love. So in the one God they form a single chain which cannot quickly be broken

[St. Symeon the New Theologian].

Reflection Questions:

1. Do you have a favorite saint? Who? Why? How does this saint help you?
2. Do you believe you too can be a saint?

3. As we give thanks to God for the harvest of salvation and the harvest of the land, how can we live our gratitude? Does God's gracious love help us to be more gracious?

Please remember our missionary
on his birthday:

Hymn for the Saints

(Richard Mant, 1776-1848)

For all your saints, O Lord,
who strove in you to live,
who followed you, obeyed, adored,
our grateful hymn receive.

For all your saints, O Lord,
who strove in you to die,
who counted you their great reward,
accept our thankful cry.

They all in life and death,
with you, their Lord, in view,
learned from your Holy Spirit's breath
to suffer and to do.

For this, your Name we bless,
and humbly pray anew\that we like them in holiness
may live and die in you.

To God, the Father, Son
and Spirit, ever blest,
the One in Three, the Three in One,
be endless praise addressed.

November 11:

Fr. Thomas Jones, O.F.M. (Brazil)

May God grant him many years in peace,
health and happiness!

Please also pray for our missionaries and
former missionary friars who are ill:

Fr. Thomas Fox, O.F.M. (Brazil)

Fr. Campion Lally, O.F.M. (Japan)

Fr. Clement Healy, O.F.M. (Jamaica)

Fr. Finian Riley, O.F.M. (Africa)

Fr. Robert Nee, O.F.M. (Brazil)

Fr. Arthur Murray, O.F.M. (Southern US)

Br. Rosario Vieira, O.F.M. (Brazil)

May the Lord bless them with
health and peace!

Prayer for Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Loving God,
to bring forth life from death
you raised up your Son
from the depths of the grave
and revealed him as the source of life.

Raise up all the faithful departed,
especially those who are close to us,
to share in the life of your risen Son.

Touch our lives,
that we who have not seen the risen Lord
may believe the message he announced to us
and live in the hope of everlasting glory.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord,
who is our resurrection and life.
Amen.

