Solemnity of All Saints (A)
Living A Life God Intended For Us
Revelations 7:2-4,9-14; Psalm 24:1bc-2,3ab,5-6; 1John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12a

Happy All Saints' Day.

Today, we honor not only well-known saints—our Patron St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, St. Damien of Molokai, St. Mother Marianne Cope, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Teresa of Calcutta, and St. Carlo Acutis—but also the many ordinary people who loved God daily and lived with kindness, honesty, and faith.

The Book of Revelation describes them as the great multitude, people from every nation and race, who now stand before God's throne. They survived the time of great distress and remained faithful witnesses to Jesus (cf. Rev. 7:14-15).

We are all called to be saints. The responsorial psalms remind us of our longing to see the face of God (cf. Ps. 24:1). Through Baptism, we are set apart and called to live holy lives. None of us is meant for anything less. Saints were not perfect. They grew tired, made mistakes, and sometimes felt weak, just as we do. Yet they kept loving, praying, and trusting God. This perseverance kept them on the path to holiness.

St. Carlo Acutis's words challenge us: "Sadness is looking at ourselves; happiness is looking toward God." Many believe sadness stems from losing money, failing an exam, or being ill. While these experiences are painful, they are not the deepest sadness. The greatest sadness is living without God's purpose and focusing only on ourselves. True sadness is living without God. Even with success, friends, and comfort, if your heart feels empty and you lack purpose, something essential is missing. That emptiness is spiritual sadness—the sadness of a soul that has forgotten its Creator.

Each of us is a child of God, made in His image and called to bring love, kindness, and goodness to the world. If we live only for ourselves, chasing money, pleasure, or pride, we waste the gift of life. We often call it failure when we face a broken relationship, a lost job, or a failed exam. Yet true failure is living a life without becoming the person God intended us to be.

Holiness is not about perfection but about the direction of our lives. What matters most is where our hearts are, not whether we avoid mistakes. Holiness means turning back to God and moving forward each time we fall. Ultimately, it is about where our hearts are. The Beatitudes express this clearly: blessed are the poor in spirit, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure of heart, and the peacemakers (cf. Matt. 5:1-12).

We are blessed when we choose humility over pride, forgiveness over hate, kindness over selfishness, and peacemaking over conflict. This is what the saints did. By God's grace, we can do the same in our homes, workplaces, schools, and communities. We do not need a halo or a miracle. St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus shows us that holiness is not reserved for those who do great things. It begins with ordinary people doing simple things with great love: a smile, a prayer, a kind word, a helping hand, or a quiet sacrifice no one sees.

I once heard a story about a man who cleaned the church every week. Someone asked him, "Nobody seems to notice what you do. Does that bother you?" He smiled and replied, "I am not cleaning the church to be noticed. I am cleaning it because God lives here." This is a beautiful answer.

All we need is a loving heart: to pray daily, be honest with others, help those in need, forgive those who hurt us, and keep smiling even in difficult times. Each time we choose humility over pride,

forgiveness over hatred, kindness over ill will, and peacemaking over animosity, we move closer to holiness.

All of us are called to be saints—not someday, but today. None of us is meant for anything less. The Holy Eucharist nourishes and strengthens our call to holiness.

Let us be the reason someone feels God's love today. Be the sign that someone is loved by a caring God. This is how saints begin: one simple act of love at a time.
Every small act of goodness is a step toward heaven.

God bless you.

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Pastor