Impact

Bring faith to life. Find life in faith.

Impact this Month

NOVEMBER 1 & 2

All Saints and All Souls

The feasts of All Saints and All Souls celebrate those who have gone before us in faith. We recognize those who lived saintly lives and pray for those who have died.

Who inspires you to live and grow in faith? How did this person offer the gifts and blessings which had been entrusted to him or her?

November 26

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a perfect opportunity to reflect on your blessings and to share with those who are in need.

We always have much for which to be grateful. For what are you most thankful this year?

Entrusted with much

On the surface, the parable of the talents, which we hear on November 15, is a story about three servants who are charged with the care of their master's money. Like all parables, however, the story Jesus tells has a much deeper meaning. **It is a story of who we are as people who have been entrusted with much** – life, gifts, talents, and resources. In the parable, two of the servants multiply their master's riches, while one buries his talent, returning it as it was to the master upon his return. While the one who buried his talents is called wicked and lazy, those who increased what was entrusted to them are regarded as "good and faithful servants."

Clearly, the master intends for us to be thankful for what we have been given and use it well, to make it fruitful and return it with increase to the Lord. "Each will be measured by the standard of his or her individual vocation. Each has received a different "sum"—a unique mix of talents, opportunities, challenges, weaknesses and strengths, potential modes of service and response—on which the Master expects a return. He will judge individuals according to what they have done with what they were given." (SDR, p. 20)

How do we multiply what we have been given? By giving it away. This is what Jesus perfectly models and what we are to be about. Jesus emptied himself for the sake of all. He shows us that such giving is the way of the reign of God.

What gifts have been entrusted to you? Perhaps you naturally organize thoughts, resources, and time. Maybe you relate with people easily, enjoy making new friends, and partner well with others. Perhaps you are creative, caring, or find special fulfillment in accomplishing something every day. No matter what our talents and strengths, the Lord calls us to use them well in order to make God's love known.

In what ways do you make your gifts fruitful by sharing, service, and caring for others? How might you challenge yourself to more fully return with increase to the Lord all that has been entrusted to you?

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As Christian stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.

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ARE YOU READY TO BE A SAINT?

"The Solemnity of All Saints is "our" celebration: not because we are good, but because the sanctity of God has touched our life. The Saints are not perfect models, but people through whom God has passed. We can compare them to the Church windows which allow light to enter in different shades of color. The saints are our brothers and sisters who have welcomed the light of God in their heart and have passed it on to the world, each according to his or her own "hue". But they were all transparent; they fought to remove the stains and the darkness of sin, so as to enable the gentle light of God to pass through.

This is life's purpose: to enable God's light to pass through; it is the purpose of our life too. Indeed, today in the Gospel, Jesus addresses his followers, all of us, telling us we are "Blessed" (Mt 5:3). It is the word with which he begins his sermon, which is the "Gospel", Good News, because it is the path of happiness. Those who are with Jesus are blessed; they are happy. Happiness is not in having something or in becoming someone, no.

True happiness is being with the Lord and living for love. Do you believe this? True happiness is not in having something or in becoming someone; true happiness is being with the Lord and living for love. Do you believe this? We must go forth, believing in this.



So, the ingredients for a happy life are called Beatitudes: blessed are the simple, the humble who make room for God, who are able to weep for others and for their own mistakes, who remain meek, fight for justice, are merciful to all, safeguard purity of heart, always work for peace and abide in joy, do not hate and, even when suffering, respond to evil with good. These are the Beatitudes. They do not require conspicuous gestures; they are not for supermen, but for those who live the trials and toils of every day, for us.

This is how the saints are: like everyone, they breathe air polluted by the evil there is in the world, but on the journey they never lose sight of Jesus' roadmap, that indicated in the Beatitudes, which is like the map of Christian life." -Pope Francis, November 1, 2017

All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you. - *Ps 145:10*



CHOOSE GRATITUDE

It is the time of year we celebrate Thanksgiving, our annual invitation to acknowledge the people, gifts, and events that are most important in our lives. Thanksgiving is a time to pause and recall our blessings, the moments we want to embed in our hearts and hold dear in memory.

In the month of November, the Sunday gospels call us to focus on the ultimate things of life: Meaning. Purpose. Eternity. Jesus helps us to see that what matters in the eyes of God is the way our lives are rooted in God's love and how we reflect that love in the way we live. Gratitude helps us see others as precious in God's sight; it leads us to use what we have in service of others; gratitude shapes what we do with our lives, talents, and resources. Being grateful leads us to live our lives with meaning, purpose, and the perspective of eternity.

This Thanksgiving, let us choose to be grateful. In this season, many families gather for a special meal; parishes collect food and clothing for the poor; and co-workers come together socially. Stay focused on what really matters as you join with family and friends. Go out of your way to serve others with a glad and thankful heart, and know that in doing so, you are fulfilling your call as a follower of Jesus Christ. In gratitude for God's abundant blessings, we will be ready to face the challenges and celebrate the joys of life anew.

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