

Homily Helps and Petitions for the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls) (November 2, 2025)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Wisdom 3: The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace.

Psalms 23: The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack. In green pastures he makes me lie down; to still waters he leads me; he restores my soul. ... Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.

Romans 5: We even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us.

John 6: This is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it [on] the last day.

† Comments for the Day:

Psalms 23, the responsorial psalm for today's feast of All Souls, describes God's intention for all people and, beyond that, for all creation. God built creation to be "green pastures" of abundant nurturance where even the passage from life to death is filled with confidence and joy. Too often, though, the human experience of life seems to be characterized more by the affliction referenced in Romans 5 than by the paradisaical delight that Psalms 23 conveys. As humans increasingly devastate ecosystems and allow climate change to get out of control, both physical and mental affliction increases.

The overwhelming reality of suffering and death – our own, or that of those we care about – can seem like too much to bear. In such anxiety-producing times, it will not help to hide our heads in the sand. Instead, we must turn and listen even more intently to the gospel message. Romans 5 affirms that "the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." As Jesus indicates in today's gospel, God wants all to flourish, now and in eternity. This poured-out love is stronger than death!

When we reflect on the lives of those who have gone before us in faith, we see how they endured the affliction that came their way with the sure hope that no matter what, they were firmly held in the hand of God. Their confidence in God's eternal love enabled them to face their personal problems while also courageously seeking ways to collaborate with God's larger purposes in the world. Today, as the very future of human life on Earth is threatened by climate change and other forms of pollution, they are praying for us that we may recognize and follow God's urgent call to take action against these life-threatening evils.

† **Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:**

Authentic human development has a moral character. It presumes full respect for the human person, but it must also be concerned for the world around us and “take into account the nature of each being and of its mutual connection in an ordered system”. Accordingly, our human ability to transform reality must proceed in line with God's original gift of all that is. (5)

The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home. (13)

At the end, we will find ourselves face to face with the infinite beauty of God (cf. 1 Cor 13:12), and be able to read with admiration and happiness the mystery of the universe, which with us will share in unending plenitude. Even now we are journeying towards the sabbath of eternity, the new Jerusalem, towards our common home in heaven. Jesus says: “I make all things new” (Rev 21:5). Eternal life will be a shared experience of awe, in which each creature, resplendently transfigured, will take its rightful place and have something to give those poor men and women who will have been liberated once and for all. (243)

In the meantime, we come together to take charge of this home which has been entrusted to us, knowing that all the good which exists here will be taken up into the heavenly feast. In union with all creatures, we journey through this land seeking God . . . Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope. (244)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we may follow the courageous example of our ancestors in faith by offering our resources to help life on Earth continue to flourish, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That those weighed down by affliction and anxiety in these troubling times may receive the gift of hope and confidence in the eternal love of God, let us pray to the Lord ...

Further Resources

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