

The Souls in the Purgatory

There are *three status* among the members of the church. Some of the members of the Body of Christ are *pilgrims on earth*; others have died and *are being purified*; while still others are *in glory*, seeing God face to face (cf. no. 954, Catechism of Catholic Church). There is a deep communion among the Disciples of Christ in these three stages.

We, the pilgrims on earth, are in deep communion with *the Saints in Heaven*. Every year on 1st November we celebrate the solemnity of all the Saints and we pray to them for their intercession.

We, the pilgrims on earth, are in deep communion with the faithful departed. On 2nd November we keep the memory of all the faithful departed. In purgatory, the souls of the faithful departed, who have died in God's grace, undergo purification so that they could enter heaven.

The best thing we can do for the souls of the faithful departed is to pray for them and above all, to *offer Holy Mass* for them. Remembering the dead and praying for them is a pious and holy thing. Judas Maccabeus made atonement for the dead that they may be delivered from their sin (2 Macc. 12:45-46).

“From the beginning, the Church has honoured the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that thus purified, they may attain the Beatific vision of God” (No. 1032, Catechism of the Catholic Church).

During the month of November let us try to participate in the Holy Mass frequently, receive Holy Communion and offer it for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed. Let us offer our prayers, our sacrifices, and our almsgiving to the poor, and our works of penance for the souls in the purgatory. On 2nd November let us remember our deceased Archbishops, Priests, Religious and the Laity and pray fervently for the repose of their souls.

- May the souls of the faithful departed, by the mercy of God rest in peace.
- Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now at the hour of our death.