



# 1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024

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## WHY YOU'RE PART OF THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS EVEN BEFORE YOU REACH HEAVEN

Joanne McPortland  
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*WE DON'T, AND CAN'T, MAKE OURSELVES HOLY, MAKE OURSELVES SAINTS. BUT IN THIS COMMUNION, WE'RE ALL SAINTS, BY THE MERITS OF CHRIST.*



AIN'T NO PARTY LIKE A CATHOLIC PARTY, SO THEY SAY, AND ON THIS ALL SAINTS DAY THE PARTY HAS A GUEST LIST THAT DISSOLVES THE LIMITS OF TIME AND SPACE.

IT'S OUR FEAST DAY, EVERY ONE OF US, LIVING AND DEAD. AND THOUGH THE SAINTS IN HEAVEN – THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT, AS THEY'D BE LISTED ON A FORMAL, ENGRAVED INVITATION – GET TOP BILLING AND THE HEAD TABLE TODAY, YOU AND I WILL FIND OUR NAMES ON THE LIST AT THE DOOR.

WE, THE CHURCH MILITANT TO GIVE US OUR PROPER, ARE AMONG THE UNFAMOUS AND INNUMERABLE SAINTS. NOBODY WILL BOUNCE US FROM THIS PARTY. WE BELONG HERE.

THAT'S NOT OUR DOING, OF COURSE. OUR INVITATION TO THE PARTY KNOWN AS THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS WAS PAID FOR IN BLOOD. WE, THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH, ARE LESS A COMMUNION OF INDIVIDUAL SAINTS (IN THE HOLY CARD WAY WE THINK OF SAINTS) THAN A COMMUNITY STEEPED IN SANCTITY, SHARING EQUALLY AND UTTERLY UNDESERVEDLY IN THE GOODS OF SALVATION WON FOR US BY CHRIST JESUS. AS THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH PUTS IT:

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 5*

# FEASTS FOR NOVEMBER

THE FEASTS ON THE GENERAL ROMAN CALENDAR CELEBRATED DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER ARE:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 ALL SAINTS, SOLEMNITY  | 21 PRESENTATION OF MARY, MEMORIAL                                  |
| 2 ALL SOULS, COMMEM.   | 22 CECILIA, MEMORIAL   |
| 3 THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME,<br>SUNDAY                            | 23 CLEMENT I; COLUMBAN; BL. MIGUEL AGUSTÍN PRO<br>(USA), OPT. MEM. |
| 4 CHARLES BORROMEIO, MEMORIAL  | 24 OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE<br>UNIVERSE, MEMORIAL        |
| 9 DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA, FEAST                                  | 25 CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA, OPT. MEM.                              |
| 10 THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME,<br>SUNDAY                          | 30 ANDREW, APOSTLE, FEAST  |
| 11 MARTIN OF TOURS; VETERANS DAY (USA), MEMORIAL                             |  |
| 12 JOSAPHAT, MEMORIAL  |  |
| 13 FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI, MEMORIAL  |  |
| 15 ALBERT THE GREAT, OPT. MEM.   |  |
| 16 MARGARET OF SCOTLAND; GERTRUDE, OPT. MEM.                                 |  |
| 17 THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME,<br>SUNDAY                           |  |
| 18 BASILICAS OF PETER AND PAUL; ROSE PHILIPPINE<br>DUCHESNE (USA), OPT. MEM. |  |

THE COMMEMORATIONS OF ST. MARTIN DE PORRES (NOVEMBER 3), ST. LEO THE GREAT (NOVEMBER 10), ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY (NOVEMBER 17), AND ST. ANDREW DUNG-LAC AND COMPANIONS (NOVEMBER 24) FALL ON SUNDAYS AND ARE SUPERSEDED BY THE SUNDAY LITURGY. □

## OUR CENACLE CORNER

SEEKING A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD  
THROUGH MEDITATION OF PASSAGES FROM HOLY SCRIPTURES

### *Purgatory*

*Thus he made atonement for the dead  
that they might be absolved from their sin.  
2 Maccabees 12:46*

# GOD TOUCHED ME

*Publish his glorious deeds among the nations.*

*Tell everyone about the amazing things he does. — 1 Chronicles 16:24*

***"Being a catechist is not a title; it is an attitude of abiding with Him, and it lasts a lifetime!  
It means abiding in the Lord's presence and letting ourselves be led by Him."***

***- Pope Francis***

## ON BEING A CATECHIST

*By Katekist*

THE SEED OF CATECHISM WAS IMBUED IN ME EARLY IN LIFE. WHILE I WAS GROWING UP IN MY LITTLE TOWN SOUTH OF MANILA, I WAS IN AWE OF THE COLUMBAN PRIESTS SERVING MY LOCAL PARISH. I WITNESSED THE YOUNG, NEWLY ARRIVED IRISH PRIESTS WORKING HARD TO LEARN OUR LANGUAGE AND ADAPT TO OUR CULTURE IN ORDER FOR THEM TO BE EFFECTIVE PREACHERS. I REMEMBER THEM COMING TO OUR 2ND GRADE CLASS TO TEACH US ABOUT GOD. THAT LEFT AN INDELIBLE MARK ON ME. IN JUNIOR YEAR HIGH SCHOOL, MY CLASS MET AN INCREDIBLE TEACHER WHO WAS COMMITTED TO CATECHISM. SHE GATHERED US IN HER FOLD, TAUGHT US HOW TO DO LESSON PLANNING, AND SHARED WITH US A TON OF BIBLICAL STORIES THAT WE CAN USE IN TEACHING THE YOUNG STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOL. AND SINCE THEN, I WAS HOOKED INTO CATECHESIS. I TAUGHT GRADES 3 AND 4, IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WHERE I STUDIED. AFTER HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION, MY VOLUNTARY WORK AS A CATECHIST CONTINUED IN COLLEGE. WE WENT TO DIFFERENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN MANILA TO TEACH AND PREPARE CHILDREN IN THE RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENTS, PARTICULARLY THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION AND HOLY EUCHARIST. IT WAS A PRIVILEGE TO TEACH, AND IT WAS A GREAT LEARNING EXPERIENCE ON OUR END. A REQUIREMENT TO TEACH IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL IN MANILA REQUIRED THAT I BECOME A CERTIFIED CATECHIST. UNDER THE GUIDANCE AND MENTORING OF THE UNIVERSITY'S ASSISTANT PASTOR, I WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN MY CERTIFICATION AS A CATECHIST. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT I WAS SERVING AS THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE CATECHETICAL SECTION, PAX ROMANA ORGANIZATION AT THE OLDEST UNIVERSITY IN ASIA.

FAST FORWARD TO MY IMMIGRATION TO THE US, I TAUGHT IN A CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. OF COURSE I VOLUNTEERED TO TEACH THE CONFIRMATION

CLASS. EVENTUALLY MY PASTOR ASKED ME TO WORK IN THE PARISH AS A PART TIME CATECHETICAL COORDINATOR. IT WAS THE BEST TIME OF MY LIFE. TRULY, I ENJOYED DOING THIS MINISTRY. FOR ALMOST 20 YEARS I MANAGED TO DO THIS MINISTRY ALONG WITH MY FULL-TIME JOB AS A HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS TEACHER. AT ONE TIME MY PROGRAM HAD 350 STUDENTS, 20 CATECHISTS, 20 ASSISTANT CATECHISTS AND MANY HALL/BATHROOM VOLUNTEERS. WITH THE CHANGING DEMOGRAPHY OF OUR PARISH COUPLED WITH THE ONSET OF THE PANDEMIC OUR ENROLLMENT DWINDLED. AS THEY ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS, IT WAS REALLY VERY TOUCHING TO SEE HOW PEOPLE ARE TRULY PASSIONATE ABOUT CATECHESIS AND THEIR DESIRE TO SHARE THEIR FAITH TO OUR STUDENTS.

AS A COORDINATOR, I HAVE TO PLAN FOR MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES NOT ONLY FOR THE STUDENTS BUT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY AS WELL. I MADE SURE THAT WE CELEBRATE ACTIVITIES THAT STUDENTS WILL REMEMBER EVEN WHEN THEY BECOME ADULTS. WE HAD THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE, A CHRISTMAS TOY COLLECTION FOR THE FOSTER CHILDREN IN NEW YORK CITY, CHRISTMAS PAGEANTS THAT WE START PRACTICING AS EARLY AS OCTOBER, HAD COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION RETREATS AS WELL. WE HAD FAMILY CATECHESIS WITH DIFFERENT THEMES WHERE THE WHOLE FAMILY WERE INVOLVED. THE THEMES WE SELECTED WERE APPROPRIATE FOR FAMILY GATHERING. ONE YEAR WE CELEBRATED THE DIVERSITY OF OUR PARISH WHERE EVERYONE BROUGHT THEIR ETHNIC FOOD FOR SHARING – IT WAS SUCH A DELIGHTFUL SUCCESS. ANOTHER TIME WE CELEBRATED OCTOBER, THE ROSARY MONTH WHERE WE HAD ROSARY BEADS MADE OF BALLOONS AND BASICALLY FORM THE WHOLE ROSARY WITH BALLOONS. THEN WE ASK OUR STUDENTS TO MAKE BANNERS WHERE THEY WROTE THEIR PERSONAL

INTENTION, ATTACHED THEM TO THE BALLOON AND AFTER RECITING A DECADE OF THE ROSARY THE STUDENTS LET GO OF THE BALLOONS. WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT OF THE FLOATING ROSARY AND THEIR BANNERS OF INTENTIONS! IT WOULD BE AMISS IF I DON'T MENTION AT ANOTHER TIME WHERE WE HAVE THE CHILDREN DRESS UP AS THEIR FAVORITE SAINT, HAD A PARADE AND TELL A BIT ABOUT THE SAINT THEY HAVE CHOSEN. THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE MEMORABLE EVENTS THAT I TREASURE IN MY HEART. IT WAS REAL HARD WORK ON MY PART TO COORDINATE SUCH ACTIVITIES, BUT THE DIFFICULTY IS NOTHING IN COMPARISON TO HOW I FELT AFTER THOSE EVENTS. I WAS TRULY EXHAUSTED PREPARING, COORDINATING, AND EXECUTING THESE ACTIVITIES TOGETHER WITH MY DEVOTED CATECHISTS. BUT GUESS WHAT, IT WAS THESE OCCASIONS WHERE I EXPERIENCED THE MYSTICAL MOMENTS WITH GOD, WHEN I FELT GOD WAS SO PLEASED WITH ME. AND THUS FULLY FELT HIS LOVE FOR ME. FOR THAT I AM GRATEFUL.

WE ARE IN PRECARIOUS TIMES IN TERMS OF HOW WE WILL LIVE OUR FAITH. I PERSONALLY BELIEVE THAT NOT ONLY THE STUDENTS BUT THE PARENTS OR THE ADULTS NEED TO BE CATECHIZED, TOO, AS WE TEND TO FORGET HOW TO RAISE TRUE PRACTICING CATHOLICS. REMEMBER CHILDREN DO WHAT THEY SEE FROM US, SO WE HAVE TO STRIVE TO BE ROLE MODELS FOR THEM. TO SAY THAT I AM CATHOLIC IS EASY, BUT LIVING AN AUTHENTIC CATHOLIC LIFE IS NOT AN EASY FEAT. SO, I CHALLENGE YOU AS WE ARE ALL CALLED TO BE CATECHISTS BY OUR BAPTISM. LET US MAKE MEANINGFUL, LASTING MEMORIES OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH FOR OUR CHILDREN AS THEY WILL BE THE NEXT GENERATION OF TRUE, AUTHENTIC, PRACTICING CATHOLICS. □



*"I am your Mother Mary.*

*This is the time that you will have to pray, pray, pray hard coming from your heart and soul. Everything will come in a deep disarray in the function of society. Chaos will ensue and people will be confused as to who is their friend and foe.*

*My children, in the end, America will stand high if you stand high with God's will. I am telling you this as a message from above so you will start praying unceasingly. My beads of rosary will be your instrument against the enemy and Jezebel of your time who is trying to dictate the future of America and your children. Be on the alert for this is the battle between good and evil. My children fight with courage and with resolve."*

*Mary, Your Queen of Peace*

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## WHY YOU'RE PART OF THE COMMUNION...

"SINCE ALL THE FAITHFUL FORM ONE BODY, THE GOOD OF EACH IS COMMUNICATED TO THE OTHERS ... WE MUST THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT THERE EXISTS A COMMUNION OF GOODS IN THE CHURCH. BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT MEMBER IS CHRIST, SINCE HE IS THE HEAD ... THEREFORE, THE RICHES OF CHRIST ARE COMMUNICATED TO ALL THE MEMBERS, THROUGH THE SACRAMENTS."

"AS THIS CHURCH IS GOVERNED BY ONE AND THE SAME SPIRIT, ALL THE GOODS SHE HAS RECEIVED NECESSARILY BECOME A COMMON FUND" (CCC #947).

WE DON'T, AND CAN'T, MAKE OURSELVES HOLY, MAKE OURSELVES SAINTS. WE CAN COOPERATE (AND THE SAINTS IN HEAVEN HAVE COOPERATED) WITH THE GIFT OF SANCTIFYING GRACE THAT IS OURS BY BAPTISM. WE CAN BE MILITANT (AND THE SAINTS IN HEAVEN HAVE BEEN MILITANT) ABOUT REJECTING ALL THAT STANDS BETWEEN US AND THE DOING OF GOD'S WILL. WE CAN FOLLOW JESUS (AND THE SAINTS IN HEAVEN HAVE FOLLOWED HIM) AS DISCIPLES AND PILGRIMS ON THIS DAILY JOURNEY TO THE HOMETOWN WE HAVE BEEN PROMISED, THE PARTY THAT HAS NO END.

THERE ARE SOME OTHER GUESTS CELEBRATING (YES, CELEBRATING!) WITH US TODAY, ALTHOUGH THEIR BIG DAY COMES TOMORROW ON ALL SOULS DAY. THE CHURCH SUFFERING – THE SOULS IN PURGATORY – ARE ALSO SAINTS. THE MERITS OF GRACE ARE NOT DENIED TO THEM, AND THEY BURN WITH LOVE AND JOY TO JETTISON THE TRACES OF ALL THAT IS LESS THAN LOVING. THAT'S A CATHOLIC PARTY, TOO. THEY, TOO, WILL SIT AT THE HEAD TABLE SOMEDAY.

TO SAY WE ARE ALL SAINTS ON THIS ALL SAINTS DAY IS NOT BY ANY MEANS TO PRACTICE THE LAZY SIN OF PRESUMPTION. IT IS, INSTEAD, TO DO SOMETHING VERY DIFFICULT: TO WAIT IN JOYFUL HOPE. TO LIVE AS THOUGH WE KNOW THE ENDING, BECAUSE WE DO. IT IS NOT OUR ENDING WE AWAIT, BUT THE CONSUMMATION OF THE WORLD IN THE FIRE OF CHRIST'S SAVING LOVE.

### HOW DO WE CELEBRATE?

IN THE MEANTIME, WHAT IS IT WE DO AT THIS CATHOLIC PARTY? WE PRAY AND ARE PRAYED FOR. PRAYER IS THE BLESSING CUP THAT WE PASS FROM TABLE TO TABLE. THE SAINTS IN HEAVEN PRAY FOR US AND FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY. WE PRAY FOR THE INTERCESSION OF THE SAINTS IN HEAVEN, TO LIGHT OUR PATH ON EARTH, TO HELP

ONE ANOTHER, AND TO FREE THE SUFFERING SOULS IN PURGATORY. THE CHURCH SUFFERING IS POWERLESS TO PRAY – BUT THE FIRE OF THEIR PURIFYING LOVE IS FUELED BY OUR PRAYER, AND THEY WILL NOT FORGET US.

I THINK, EVERY YEAR ON THIS FEAST, OF THE DIAGRAM IN THE OLD BALTIMORE CATECHISM FROM WHICH I LEARNED ABOUT THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS. THERE WERE THE SAINTS IN HEAVEN, HALOED FIGURES IN A CLOUD RAINING DOWN ARROWS OF GRACE, LABELED NEED NO HELP, BUT CAN HELP. THE SOULS IN PURGATORY, RINGED WITH FIRE, LABELED HELPLESS, BUT WITH A FUSILLADE OF ARROWS INDICATING PRAYER DIRECTED THEIR WAY. AND US, THE CHURCH ON EARTH, STANDING ATOP THE GLOBE IN APPARENT ISOLATION, YET LINKED BY ARROWS OF PRAYER TO ONE ANOTHER AND TO THOSE IN HEAVEN AND IN PURGATORY. NEED HELP, WE ARE LABELED, AND CAN HELP. WHAT A PRIVILEGE!

TRIUMPHANT – REJOICING NOT IN THEIR OWN VICTORY, BUT IN CHRIST'S. SUFFERING – ENDURING (LITERALLY, AS THAT'S WHAT SUFFERING MEANS) THE LAST PURIFYING PREPARATION. AND MILITANT – ON ACTIVE DUTY, HERE AND NOW. I BELIEVE IN ... THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH, THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS. ST. YOU, ST. ME, STS. ALL OF US, CELEBRATING OUR FEAST DAY TODAY.

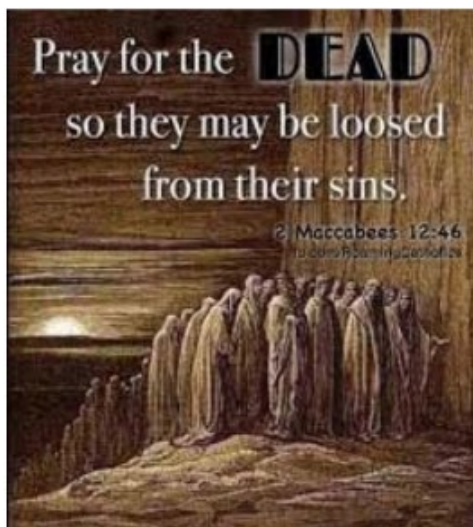
AIN'T NO PARTY LIKE A CATHOLIC PARTY – 'CAUSE A CATHOLIC PARTY NEVER ENDS!

# SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

## PURGATORY

BY VICTOR H. ARANETA

THE CLEANSING OF SINS AS ENVISIONED IN 2 MACCABEES STATES "PRAY FOR THE DEAD". FOR THIS WILL CLEANSE WHATEVER SINS THEY HAVE.



FOR US CATHOLICS, THIS MEANS WE HAVE A GOOD CHANCE TO SEE GOD AFTER WE HAVE BEEN PURGED FROM OUR SINS THROUGH THIS PLACE OF SPIRITUAL "HOLDING TANK" UNTIL ALL OUR VENIAL SINS ARE CLEANSED AND OUR SOULS IMMACULATELY FREE FROM THEM.

GENERALLY, WE CATHOLICS PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF OUR DEAD FOR NINE DAYS AND THROUGHOUT OUR

LIVES, WHENEVER WE KNEEL AND ASK FOR MERCY.

PURGATORY IS A PLACE OF GOD'S MERCY FOR ALL HUMANITY SO WE CAN BE CLEANSED IN PREPARATION TO SEE GOD IN HEAVEN.

**PRAYER:** ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD, AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM. MAY THEY REST IN PEACE. AMEN. □

## Upcoming Events

### A SEASON OF PRAYER: FOR AN ELECTION NINE-DAY NOVENA VIA ZOOM

OCTOBER 27 THROUGH NOVEMBER 4, 2024  
8:00 TO 9:00 PM

### 1<sup>ST</sup> FRIDAY DEVOTION DEDICATED TO THE HOLY SOULS

NOVEMBER 1, 2024

IN LAS VEGAS:  
THE CENACLE HOUSE  
AT 2:30 PM

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM  
AT 8:30 PM

### 1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY DEVOTION

NOVEMBER 2, 2024

IN LAS VEGAS:  
THE CENACLE HOUSE  
AT 1:00 PM

### 1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY DEVOTION

### 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY DEVOTION

NOVEMBER 1, 2024

IN LOS ANGELES:  
ST. ANNE'S CHAPEL  
ST. ANNE FAMILY SERVICES  
155 N. OCCIDENTAL BL.  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90026  
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT 8:30 AM  
MASS AT 9:30 AM

### 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY DEVOTION

NOVEMBER 3 2024

IN LAS VEGAS:  
ST. SHARBEL CATHOLIC CHURCH  
MASS AT 9:30 AM FOLLOWED BY  
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT THE CHAPEL

### 800 OUR FATHER DEVOTION

NOVEMBER 16, 2024

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM  
MASS AT 9:30 AM

NOVEMBER 23, 2024

IN LAS VEGAS: THE CENACLE HOUSE  
AT 6:00 AM