

REFLECTIONS 31st.SUNDAY YEAR A.

ALL SAINTS

Whenever we talk of saints, what flashes in my mind is that THESE WERE HUMAN BEINGS LIKE YOU AND ME. THESE WERE MEN AND WOMEN NOT ANGELS. THEY WERE BORN AND LIVED IN THIS WORLD NOT IN HEAVEN. People who experienced challenges and problems as human beings. People who persevered despite those challenges and won the battle on earth. Men and women who triumphed and are now in Heaven. We are talking of that vast group of men and women today as we celebrate All Saints Day.

THAT HUGE DIVERSE CROWD in the Book of Revelation. That group that came **FROM EVERY NATION, RACE, PEOPLE, CULTURE and TONGUE . Some were rich, others poor, some were scholars and others not educated at all, some from high social financial backgrounds and other from the rough and rugged. Some from a political background and others having no idea of it at all. Religious men and women and family men and women. Single men and women.**

What a diverse group are the children God we are celebrating today!

There **MUST** be *many more SUCH MEN AND WOMEN in heaven, than what is in the book of the church.* They **WERE NOT MADE,THEY BECAME!** They traveled on different roads to holiness as told in the Gospel today.

The poor in spirit, the sorrowing, merciful, those longing for Holiness, the clean of Heart, the peace makers and some even persecuted for the sake of the Gospel, washed in the blood of the lamb.

They traveled in one or more of these roads given in the Beatitudes. They had **THE IDENTITY OF BEING CHILDREN OF GOD.**

We too are called to be God's children NOW, yet what we will be is NOT yet revealed here on earth. After the battle here on earth we will be united with GOD THE FATHER, SON, and HOLY SPIRIT thus gaining the totality of holiness and ***SEEING GOD AS HE IS, LIKE THE SAINTS.***

Many VOICES in this world divert our attention from who we are supposed to be and what we are looking for. Our lives are ***SHAPED and CONTROLLED by deep emotional forces*** within us. Some in negative ways, others in a positive manner. All trying to win on each side. Where do we stand in this confusing society? This is what these men and women we are celebrating today underwent.

They were seen as ***CONSUMERS, VOTING UNITS, COMMERCIAL IDENTITIES*** and NOT as SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF GOD. They stood firm to all those forces and challenges and they won the BATTLE. The saints knew they had a DESTINY beyond the LIMIT of this world. They looked beyond and used the obstacles as a challenge and made them ***CHANNELS to reach HEAVEN. We have a magnificent future which the world cannot provide because we are not of this world.***

Let us not lose focus that we are partly in this world and in the process of leaving this world. We are not ***CITIZENS of this world, YET*** we are in it.

We are linked together with God our creator by Christ our Savior through the Holy Spirit with the INTERCESSION OF THE SAINTS. This solemnity teaches us that HOLINESS is possible for any one with the Grace of God.

The solemnity holds for us the fact that we have millions of models among those men and women who passed in this world and became saints.

IF THEY DID IT THEN WHY NOT YOU AND ME?
May they intercede for us.

