

## **ALL SAINTS A/2005**

In each of us there is a desire to be happy in one's life, a yearning to be in joy, an aspiration to be comfortable in one's body, job, family, etc. Nobody wishes himself unhappiness. Even if it is true that God has blessed us in many ways in our job and in our children, in our health and in our relationship, we feel, however, from time to time, some dissatisfaction; we feel that something is lacking. In fact, we all have the experience that all these aspirations are never fulfilled completely. Failures in marriage or in job, problems of health, obstacles in the realization of our project, remind us that as long as we live here on earth our happiness will never be complete. And yet, in spite of all these failures, our aspirations are there, intact, before us.

Today's feast of All Saints comes to our rescue by reminding us that all our aspirations will find their happy ending in God. All our struggles and battles will be overcome. All the obstacles and failures of our life will be wiped away. God will give a definitive solution to all our problems; he will bring about salvation to all those who will be able to fight and to remain faithful to him. This is the sense of the 1<sup>st</sup> reading.

In fact, those who are rewarded are not lazy people or those who have spent their life running away from the battlefield of this life, but those who have fought and survived the time of distress. They fought till they gave up their blood, but as they got into a scrap with evil for Jesus Christ' sake, the Lamb has washed their robes and made them white in his blood. Those who are promised to such an honor of siding and thronging around the Lamb of God are people of every nation, race, tongue and color. This is to say that we are not alone in our procession toward the throne of the Lamb. We are not alone in the battle in which we are engaged for the sake of Jesus Christ and his God. A countless number of people throughout the world are committed to the same cause as we are.

Today in an anticipative way is unfolded before us what we will become at the end of life, that is, God's children. Today is revealed before the face of the world the fate of all the Christians, that is, to belong to God and to see him face to face. Everyone having this hope and longing to see him should make himself pure, keeping himself from all that destroys God's life in him. It is only on that condition that this happiness prepared for us from all eternity will be ours. In that time, becoming like him, we will, henceforth, see him as he is.

This happiness to which we are called is not just something to come, it is an outcome of a process we have started right now; it is a journey we have already started here on earth by our acceptance of Jesus Christ and obedience to his word. Any time we strive for spiritual poverty, we are building up the kingdom of heaven where God will enrich all those who put their material and earthly success at the feet of the Lamb. Any time we mourn for the cause of God, we are sure that we will be comforted, because our God is the one who will wipe away every tear from the

face of his beloved ones. Any time we work on ourselves and on our character to become meek, gentle and kind, we are preparing our heritage, because only those who are pure will be close to God. Any time, we spend our energy to work for justice and peace between families, peoples and nations, we are building up God's kingdom, because every true longing for good is God's gift. Any time we forgive the wrong deeds done to us, we prepare God's blessing on us, for only those who are merciful will receive God's mercy.

The feast of all Saints is the feast of all those who have tried every day and in every action to live the Gospel by loving God and their brothers and sisters. The feast of all saints is not the feast of heroes, but that of ordinary people who have overcome the difficulties of the present life by their fidelity to God and to their brothers and sisters. The saints are our models to be imitated. They remind us that every pain we accept in the name of the Lord will be rewarded. They remind us also that only those who persevere in their faith in spite of hardship and difficult times will receive their recompense. The saints come from various groups of people, among single people, married people, mothers and fathers of families and little children. They intercede for us before the throne of the Lamb of God. To become a saint is our vocation. To celebrate all saints is to remind us of our duty as Christians and our vocation. Let us ask them to help us to be faithful to the promises of our baptism.



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