

Solemnity of All Saints A/2020

In each of us there is a deep desire to be happy in our lives and in everything we undertake. There is, in each one of us, a yearning to be joyful and successful, an aspiration to be healthy and comfortable in our body, our job and our families. No one wishes himself to be unhappy in life. That would even be a sign of madness rather than to wish oneself misery and bad luck.

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, from time to time, that something is lacking in us. We all have the experience that all our aspirations are never completely fulfilled.

Many other people share the same paradoxical experience that in spite of their longing, expectation and all the efforts provided to be happy, they have not obtain a lasting happiness. Many realize, to their astonishment, that in spite of their possession of money, cars, houses, power, honor, material things, they are not completely satisfied. They realize that the attainment of some goals of life has not brought them the happiness which they were seeking. Something is missing that would bring them true happiness.

Failure in the realization of our projects of life, problems in marriage, difficulties in job, collapse in health, obstacle in our relationships..., all that remind us that as long as we live 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 to the end. This is the sense of today's first reading.

In fact, those who are rewarded, in this reading, are not lazy people who spent their lives running away from the battlefield of this life. On the contrary, they are those who fought and survived the time of distress. They fought till they gave up their blood, but as they contended with the evil for Jesus Christ' sake, the Lamb of God has washed their robes and made them white in his blood. Those who are promised to such an honor of appearing before the throne of Lamb and receive the crown are people of every nation, race, tongue and color.

Thus, we are assured 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 our God. A countless number of people throughout the world are committed to the same cause as we are.

Today, in anticipation, unfolds before our eyes what we will become at the end of our pilgrimage on earth. We will be recognized as God's children; we will see God face to face. Today is revealed before the face of the world the fate of all the disciples of Jesus. They would not have run in vain; they belong to God and will 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 the happiness prepared for us from all eternity will be ours. At that time, becoming like him, we will see him as he is.

The happiness to which we are called is not just something to come, it is an outcome of a process we have already 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 of God. Poor in Spirit, we are in real need of God who can attest to what is lacking in our lives. How can we survive without Jesus and his Father? Our human vulnerability lets us cry to Jesus and the Father and Holy Spirit that we need them to sustain us because we are poor. Jesus is inviting us to evaluate where we stand in our life and where we find our security.

Any time we mourn for the cause of God, for the suffering of our fellows and our own, and even for our sins and those of the world that affect the heart of our beloved Jesus, 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 humble will be close to God. Humility is the fragrance that pleases God and the path that leads to the grace of true conversion. Those who possess it become vessels that transmit the goodness, mercy and power of God, which cannot be obtained otherwise.

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. Thus, are we given the task of fighting injustice, oppression and inequities, and building bridge between peoples.

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. By doing so, we declare that what we have received as God's gift, we prolong it by becoming the hands God extends to others.

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 given us as models to imitate. They are ordinary people like us, but they have accomplished extraordinary things because they were obedient to God and attentive to his grace in them. They remind us that every pain we accept in the name of the Lord will be rewarded. They remind us 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 them are single people, married people, mothers and fathers of families, little children and consecrated peoples. 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 disciples of Jesus and our vocation. Let us aspire to be holy in our life. Let us ask Jesus to help us to be faithful to the vows of our baptism so that one day we become saint. God bless you all!.

Revelation 7: 2-4, 9-14; 1 John 3: 1-3; Matthew 5: 1-122a



Homily Date: November 01, 2020
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Contact: www.mbala.org
Document Name: 20201101homily.pdf