

► Sunday, November 2, 2008, Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls)

Wis 3:1-9 or 3:1-6, 9, or Is 25:6, 7-9; Ps 27:1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 13-14, or Ps 103:8, 10, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18; Rom 6:3-9 or 6:3-4, 8-9, or I Cor 15:20-24, 25-28; Mt 25:31-46, or Jn 11:17-27 or 11:21-27

Week #11: Main Theme: Life in heaven and the value of life on earth.

One might not think that “All Souls’ Day,” a feast of prayer for the dead, sounds very full of hope. After all, we don’t want to think about death and what comes after. We want to think about life. But that is what the readings today encourage us to do: to think about the life that God has in store for those who love Him, life everlasting and more joyful than we can possibly imagine.

Today let us pray for those who have died, in the hope that they will soon come into the joy of eternal life, having been prepared by the fire of God’s love. Let us pray that we ourselves may recognize that the joys of eternal life have already begun in the Trinitarian indwelling begun in baptism and renewed, if lost through mortal sin, in Confession. Let us pray for the graces to live out this heavenly reality that is within us. Let us pray that we might be ready to give ourselves away unselfishly, in marriage or in the celibate life, in order to receive everything back and more from God in the world to come. Let us pray for those who are soon to die, especially for children and the most powerless of these, the unborn. Let us recommit ourselves to telling the world about God’s plan for new life and why that makes life precious here and now.

Bulletin: “The marriage of a man and a woman is not just one form of association or institutional model among many others. Marriage as the union between a man and a woman has served the common good by providing children with both a mother and father, and by bringing men and women together according to the moral order.”

Bishop George Coleman of Fall River, 11/18/2003

Suggested bulletin insert: “Marriage at the Heart of Social Justice”