

Daily Homily  
All Souls Day; Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed  
Feast  
Thirty-First Week in Ordinary Time, Wednesday  
2 November 2022  
[USCCB Daily Readings](#)

Yesterday's solemnity of All Saints Day came about in the fourth century as a commemoration of "all the Martyrs." In the seventh century after a wave of invaders plundered the Roman catacombs, Pope Boniface IV gathered up some 28 wagonloads of bones from martyred Christians and buried them beneath the Pantheon, an abandoned Roman temple dedicated to all the gods. The pope rededicated the temple as a Christian shrine and church. He said that he hoped that future Christians would come to that place to remember all the saints where once demons were revered.

Today's feast and celebration is yet another gift of the Church. As any good mother would, She is always looking out for the best of the well-being of Her children both in life and in death. So, after celebrating all Her children already rejoicing in heaven, by Her powerful intercession with Christ, She strives to assist all those who still remain in purgatory, so that they can soon inhabit the Heavenly Kingdom.

Purgatory. It is a sacred mystery we celebrate, that is exclusive to Catholics. It is found in Scripture, for sure, and honored by our Tradition. The meaning of such a state is in the word itself... a state of purification. Again, it is the Church's gift and care for Her children to be ready and get ready for their eternal resting place.

I leave you with this image, an image of Purgatory that I recently read. One author likened Purgatory to waking up in the morning... when we open our eyes after surrendering to the death of sleep, we are groggy and disoriented. Our eyes need to focus and our minds need to recalculate – what time is it, what day is it, what's the weather like outside. Then we move our bodies and work out the aches, kinks, and pains. We clean ourselves up, get ourselves dressed and then we are ready to jump into the day. Purgatory could be that state much like our early morning waking, recalculating, moving, cleaning so that we can be fully prepared and ready to jump into the day... or in this case, to jump into Heaven.

We pray that all the Souls, those listed behind me and those souls dear to our hearts and those of the whole Church this day, have, by the alarm clock of our prayers – our prayerful intercession for them – have fully waken up to the reality of that Heavenly inheritance.