

COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

November 2

Gospel: (John 6: 37-40)

Jesus said to the crowds: *“Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day.”*

Reflection:

This feast day reminds us that God is faithful to God's promise to save and that the victory of salvation is possible for all. We begin our lives by belonging to the Father who wills that not one of us be lost. God's will that we gain everlasting life is so strong that God sent his only-begotten Son to unite with us in our weak humanity so that we can be raised to a share in divine life. But temptations abound; we make choices selfishly to serve ourselves rather than gracefully serve others and God. Truly, there is a choice to be made and the choice to live in grace is a constant one. Each choice we make, no matter how small and seemingly insignificant, truly does take us either closer to God and each other or farther away. The gospel invites us to think of our everyday choices as having consequences—eternal life. (Living Liturgy, p.238)

Vincenian Meditation:

Frederic wrote: *“I commit my soul to Jesus Christ, my Saviour...I die in the bosom of the Catholic, Apostolic and Roman Church. I've known the misgivings of the present age, but all my life has convinced me that there is no rest for the mind and the heart except in the faith of the Church and under her authority...I implore the prayers of all my friends of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, let not your zeal be slackened by those who say, 'he is in heaven.' Pray unceasingly for one who loved you all much, but who has sinned much. Aided by your supplications, dear kind friends, I shall leave this world with less fear. I firmly trust that we shall not be separated and that I shall remain in the midst of you until you rejoin me. May the blessing of God, the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit rest upon you all. Amen”* (Derum, *Apostle in a Top Hat*, p 265)

Discussion: (Share your thoughts on the readings after a moment of silence)

How do we continue to share the stories of and pray for the deceased members of the Society?

Closing Prayer:

Let us remember the members of the our Conference who have died,
-may they celebrate now in the feast of heaven.
Let us remember all the poor who have gone before us,
-may they receive the wine of peace and the bread of life.
Amen



All will
be made
alive in
Christ

1 Cor 15:22