Solemnity of All Saints

Full Homily Transcript

Good morning. Good morning.

Today we celebrate one of the greatest feasts in the Church, the Solemnity of All Saints. It is a special day when we celebrate the triumph of God's grace in human lives.

The Feast of All Saints is not just a remembrance of saints whose names appear in our liturgical calendar. It is the celebration of the entire communion of saints, that vast family of God in heaven, known and unknown, canonized and uncanonized, who now behold the face of God.

The saints are not made in heaven. No. They are formed here on earth. They were once like us. They experienced sickness, disappointment, temptation, grief, uncertainty, family problems, persecution, and suffering.

They were ordinary people who trusted an extraordinary God. Their lives tell us that holiness is not reserved for a few privileged people. Holiness is God's call to every baptized Christian.

That is exactly what we see in today's first reading. St. John beholds a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue.

What a beautiful image! Heaven is filled with people of every language, culture, and background. The invitation to holiness is universal.

The first reading continues by saying that the saints are the ones who have survived the time of great distress. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

This implies that the saints did not go to heaven because they had easy lives. No, they got there because they remained faithful through life's trials, purified through struggles, through sacrifice, perseverance, and trust in Christ.

This is an important message for us today. Many people think that hardships are signs that God has abandoned us. The saints teach us the opposite. Often, the trials of life are the very path through which God prepares us for glory.

The Feast of All Saints reminds us that every prayer, every sacrifice, every act of forgiveness, every effort to remain faithful matters in the eyes of God.

Nothing, I repeat, nothing is wasted.

Today's feast is therefore a celebration of hope that never disappoints.

No wonder today's second reading says, "What we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed, we shall be like him. We shall see him as he really is."

In other words, our story is not finished. Our present condition is not our final destination. Our weaknesses are not our final identity. Our struggles are not our final chapter. Our failures do not define our future.

The saints now enjoy what every human heart truly desires. They see God face to face.

And that is why today's Responsorial Psalm declares, "Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face."

Beyond all our desires for comfort, success, security, and happiness is the deepest desire of all: to see God.

No wonder St. Augustine says our hearts are made for God, and they are restless until they rest in God.

The saints have reached that destination, and they remind us that we are called to be there too.

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us the Beatitudes: blessed are the poor in spirit, the merciful, the peacemakers, the pure of heart, those who hunger for righteousness, and those who endure persecution.

The Beatitudes are much more than inspiring sayings. They are roadmaps to heaven.

Think of the Beatitudes like a GPS, which many of us use, of course, which oftentimes offers multiple routes to the same destination.

One route might be shorter, another less crowded, but all lead to the same place.

In the same way, the Beatitudes show different paths toward the same goal: holiness and eternal life.

Some saints found their way to heaven through poverty of spirit, others through acts of mercy, others through purity of heart, others through suffering, peacemaking, or patient endurance in the face of persecution.

God's love is so vast that God offers many paths to heaven because he wants everyone to be saved.

The saints are living proof that the Beatitudes truly work.

Today's celebration is not just about honoring the saints, but also about remembering that we are invited to follow in their footsteps.

At the end of our lives, the question will not be how much money, power, or influence we gained, or how much recognition we received.

No. What will matter is whether we loved God, served others, stayed faithful, and followed his will.

The Solemnity of All Saints reminds us that heaven is real, that the devil is defeated, that sin and death do not have the final say, and that Christ has already won the battle.

Every saint standing before the throne of God is living proof that Christ keeps his word.

The dwelling places Jesus promised to prepare in the Gospel of John are not just dreams or fantasies. No, they are real.

And now the saints are living in these dwelling places.

And so, brothers and sisters, today the Church invites us to reflect on this meaningful question:

Do I really want to be a saint?

Because joining the communion of saints is a personal decision.

God has already given us all we need to become one: his Son, his grace, his Church, his sacraments, his Word, and the inspiring examples of the saints.

The rest depends on how we choose to respond.

May this great feast inspire us not only to achieve success, but also to embrace holiness, not just for this world, but to live with eternity in mind.

The saints pray for us, encourage us, and remind us never to lose hope.

And may we one day join that countless multitude from every nation, race, people, and tongue, clothed in white robes before the throne of God, forever singing his praise.

Amen.