

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Thursday, November 2, 2017

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)

This is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life. (John 6:40)

What a hope-filled promise Jesus makes here! Everyone who lives and dies in Christ will be raised up on the last day. Because this promise is for everyone, it creates a special link between all of us who are baptized into Christ. It makes us all members of one family, binding us together in ways that go beyond simple church membership. In a sense, we all depend on one another because we are all members of the one body of Christ. And that means that our prayers for each other—the dead as well as the living—are more than good thoughts and wishful thinking. They have power because we are all united with each other.

Pope Francis speaks of feast days like All Saints and All Souls as "days of hope" and reminds us, "Hope is like leaven that expands our souls. There are difficult moments in life, but with hope the soul goes forward and

looks ahead to what awaits us. . . . Our brothers and sisters are in the presence of God and we shall also be there . . . if we walk along the way of Jesus' (Homily, November 1, 2013).

Saints and sinners alike, we place our hope in the mercy of God—the God who gave his Son for our salvation. As St. Paul tells us, "Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Romans 5:5).

The love of God is stronger than death. It reaches across time to bind us together. It bridges heaven and earth. It convinces us that nothing can separate us from our heavenly Father. So as we reflect today on everyone who has gone before us, let's remember that our prayers can benefit one another. Whether we are praying for someone we know here and now or someone who has already died, God hears us. Surely it pleases him to see his children caring for one another!

"Father, thank you for the people you have put in my life, especially those who now sleep in faith. Together we place our hope in your promise of resurrection."

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Today's Announcements:

- The St. Alphonsus Knights of Columbus are looking for students to assist with Peter Anderson Festival this weekend as well as serving/feeding senior citizens on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Service hours are available for these events please sign up at the front desk as soon as possible.
- "Pray for Hope" bracelets are being sold in the front office or from Mary Katherine Filipich. They are \$5.00 each, and all proceeds will go to Hope Broadus.

- There will be a brief sophomore class meeting in the auditorium next Tuesday, November 7, at 3:00. All sophomores are asked to attend.
- Someone dropped off two bags of canned goods by Coach Dellenger yesterday after school. In order to to receive credit for the FCA project, be sure to see Coach Dellenger sometime today.
- As a reminder, all students who plan to attend the Youth Legislature conference next week must attend the mandatory meeting today at 3:05 p.m. in Mr. DeSalvo's room.