

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, November 2, 2025
All Souls
Cycle C

When I was a seminarian, I asked one of my professors, “Father, what is our greatest reassurance that there is life after this one? His answer surprised me and left me incredulous. He just said, “Jesus said so.” That teacher was brilliant, so I was disappointed because his answer seemed like a weak appeal of authority. Back, then, I wanted an answer that I could bet the rest of my life on.

Today we gather to remember all those whom God has called home, known and unknown to us—the souls in purgatory, the beloved who shaped our lives, and all the faithful departed who now rest in the light of Christ. All Souls’ Day invites us to live with a holy memory, to trust in God’s mercy, and to be channels of that mercy to one another.

Memory is not a mere recollection; it is a form of love that endures beyond distance and time. When we recall a mother’s quiet courage, a father’s steady faith, a friend’s steadfast presence, we are not conjuring ghosts but affirming the reality of grace at work in ordinary moments. The saints teach us many things. They remind us that faithfulness today is part of a bigger story. They show that the smallest act of love can echo for generations. They invite us to name and bless the people who have formed us, even if they are no longer with us.

Let us take a moment to call to mind one person who shaped our faith—a parent, a teacher, a neighbor, a sibling—and offer a silent blessing for them.

We profess in the Creed that we are part of the communion of saints: the Church on earth, the heavenly court, and the souls in purgatory. This is not a mere doctrine; it is a lived reality. The saints in heaven intercede for us, praying without cease before the throne of grace. The souls in purgatory are loved by God and entrusted to our prayers as part of their transformation. We, the living, are called to be companions on the journey, offering mercy, prayer, and almsgiving. Our prayers for the dead are not a courtesy; they are an expression of solidarity in charity. When we pray, we participate in God's mercy that knows no end.

All Souls' Day is a day of hopeful realism. We acknowledge death, but we also proclaim life in Christ. The Resurrection does not erase grief, but it reframes it. The light of Christ dispels the darkness, and our departed are not lost; they are held in the arms of a compassionate God.

That is why we need to Trust that nothing in God's mercy is wasted. We need to hold fast to the promise that death is not the final word. And let the memory of those we've lost awaken in us a deeper fidelity to the Gospel.

Loving God, Source of all life,

On this All Souls' Day we remember our brothers and sisters who have died in You.

May Your mercy surround them, may Your light guide them, and may Your peace fill their resting place.

Grant us, we pray, the grace to live with compassionate hearts, to forgive freely, and to love boldly. And when our own earthly journey ends, bring us into the joy of Your eternal life, where all tears are wiped away and all ordeals are no more.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.