

# Homily by Fr. Anthony Davis

## Solemnity Of All Saints

November 1, 2020

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Rv. 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 Jn. 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a

All Saints Feast Day celebration is intended to honor the memory of countless unknown and uncanonized saints who have no feast days. So today we thank God for giving ordinary men and women a share in His holiness and Heavenly glory as a reward for their Faith.

Hence today's reading from Revelation exhibits a heavenly scenario of countless thousands, from every known nation on earth, standing before God and the Lamb, together singing a magnificent "AMEN" as the liberated children of God: "Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne, and from the Lamb".

This feast is observed to teach us to honor the saints, both by imitating their lives and by seeking their intercession for us before Christ, the only mediator between God and man (1 Tm 2:5).

Thus, the Church reminds us today that God's call for holiness is universal, that all of us are called to live in His love and to make His love real in the lives of those around us.

In other words, these "Cloud of Witnesses"-i.e. these nameless holy men and women also show the superb diversity of holiness, which means that this feast day encourages everyone to realize that holiness is not uniformity, but rather a unity blossoming when individual lives bearing individual gifts encounter Jesus on their pathway through life. In short, "Be who you are, and be that well, as a witness to the master craftsman who created you" (St. Francis De Sales).

Holiness is related to the word wholesomeness. By this I mean that we grow in holiness when we live wholesome lives of integrity, truth, justice, charity, mercy, and compassion, sharing our blessings with others. That's why our old "Baltimore Catechism" defined holiness/blessedness through these Q's & A's: "Who made you? God made me. Why did God make you? God made me to know, to love, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him in heaven/kingdom of God"

We need to accept the challenge to become saints. In other words, the saints are our role models. They teach us by their lives that Christ's holy life of love, mercy and unconditional forgiveness can, with the grace of God, be lived by ordinary people from all walks of life and at all times. By this I mean that each saint achieves holiness with the raw material found around

their unique footsteps. They met life's challenges, whether sad and painful, or joyous and blissful. But despite all odds, they trusted in God's promises to accompany them and stayed loyal and faithful. Hence in God's eyes, success is faithfulness during the journey rather than victory itself.

Therefore, we all can become saints by choosing well, by doing good and avoiding evil, by choosing to follow Christ, all the way to the heavenly kingdom. For whenever anyone chooses an action reflecting God's love and directed towards God's goodness/Kingdom, holiness/blessedness flourishes both here on earth and ultimately, in the kingdom of God.

In short, in the Beatitudes we become God's chosen ones, even when our world does not choose us. But be assured that when we faithfully/persistently keep claiming the light, we will find ourselves becoming more and more radiant-living as the "light of the world and the salt of the earth"(Mt.5:14-16).

Happy all Saint's day!!!!