



Essential Evangelization

All Souls Day

As Catholics, we have a special feast day, Nov 2nd, All Souls Day. Purposefully, it is the day that follows our All Saints day, and it is a feast where we commemorate our family and friends who have gone before us and who will in time become saints too! The feast was first established by the Abbot of Cluny, France, St. Odilo, France in 998. Although some believe it is a strange practice to pray for the dead, it is rooted in Jewish\ Old Testament tradition and biblical evidence is found in 2 Maccabees Chapter 12 (note that this book was unfortunately removed from our Protestant friends bibles), and in 2 Timothy Chapter 1, when Paul prays for his friend, Onesiphorus, who had died. There are also several other references in the Old and New Testaments regarding prayer and fasting for the dead, and the fact that when we die, we are not fit, or in a perfect enough state of grace, to immediately come into the presence of God. Even the great Moses had to speak to God through a burning bush! Because of our inherited fallen nature and venial sins, we must first be “purified” by His complete love, holiness and mercy before we can live totally and eternally in grace in union with Him. That is not to say that Jesus’ work on the cross was not sufficient to gain us access to heaven, as it very most definitely was! And as God’s Word also proclaims, “anyone who believes in Him will have eternal life.”

From our Catholic heritage, it is also a comfort and connection to pray for our loved ones who have died and November is the month we especially celebrate this special gift to connect with them. We have a beautiful celebration at St. Thomas a Becket, where we will celebrate the beautiful Liturgy and Litany of our great Catholic saints as well as commemorate those of our beloved parishioners who have passed away in the last 12 months. Please also pray for your departed brothers and sisters in Christ until one day we will all be reunited in joy with them and in Him. What a beautiful world that will be!!!

*This is one of a series of articles on
Evangelization from the
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