

All Saints Day 2020

My beloved brothers and sisters, Did you know that over 17,000 men, women, religious and priests were martyred for their faith in Spain in the 1930's? Did you know that over 50,000 were martyred for their Catholic Faith by the Nazis and even more by the communists in Russia? And closer to home: did you know that thousands were martyred by the communists and freemasons in Mexico during the 20's and 30's? Did you know that hundreds and perhaps thousands more are being martyred now in our time as well?

This day was inaugurated very early in the life of the Church, to commemorate all of the Martyrs who had died for Christ and the faith, who were not officially named in the Martyrology of the Church. It was then extended to all of the silent saints throughout the history of the Church, in order to give Glory to God who brought them into His Glory- the myriads upon myriads of the faithful, who have inherited the ha'areth, the promised land that God had promised to His people, not just the land of Israel, but the Kingdom of God!

The New Testament calls all of the baptized: *ἅγιοι*, the Holy Ones. Paul even calls the Corinthians whom he was admonishing for their sinful behaviors: saints, and reminds them that they are called as saints, not just called to be saints. In the same way, the Church teaches us, that we are the Church militant, we are still fighting the good fight, but, the end of that fight, is the promised land of the Kingdom of Heaven. Therefore, **to be called as saints**, means that we have each been set aside by God, chosen by God to be His Holy Ones with Him forever! Therefore, Paul admonishes us: "Become what you are", (set aside for Holiness)! God has created us for victory, not defeat!

In the first reading and second readings, St. John reminds us that all of History is a struggle between good and evil, in which the victory of Christ and the victory of His Chosen Ones is assured; and yet, while we still fight the good fight and are still engaged in this battle, we already sing the Alleluia song of Victory! Paul, in his teachings reminds us that we have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit in our Baptisms and Confirmations as the "down payment" of the promise yet to be fulfilled, when we shall "become like Him (Christ)." The Church teaches us that by

Christ's glorified Humanity, we are made one with Him, and therefore shall share all that He has with the Father and the Spirit, for "we are God's children now...". I have inherited my wonderful good looks from my mother and my father, and this was present at the moment I was conceived! In the same way, I have the promises of God in Jesus, but I am still becoming that promise!

In the Gospel, we are reminded that the promise of God is not pie in the sky! Jesus teaches us that we are the: Μακαριοι, those who are Blessed now. We are the Blessed now, and ever shall be, provided we live the Beatitudes, and the first of these is the πατωξοι τω πνευματι, The Poor In Spirit. It is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word: Anowim. It means those who are so poor that they must depend solely upon God and His help. All of the rest of the Beatitudes are founded upon this first beatitude! It was the attitude of Christ in all that He is and did in doing the will of the Father!

Jesus is addressing all who have left everything behind in order to follow Him. The Beatitudes describe the life of Jesus Himself, and so, we too must conform ourselves to Christ! Today, we celebrate those who did so, and, at the same time, we celebrate the **fact that we have been set aside, made Holy as God is Holy, for God**, even while we are still engaged in this battle between Good and Evil! Today, we celebrate what is and what ever shall be! Amen!