

All Saints Day 2019

My beloved brothers and sisters: there are two quotations I would like to share with you today: “The Church without the Eucharist would be like living in the darkness of hell!”; the other is: “This generation of faithful Catholics will tower higher than the Cedars of Lebanon, and indeed, will be the amongst the greatest of Saints.”

The first quotation reminds us of the reality of the gift of the Eucharist, that in the invisible mystery of the Eucharist, we are already living in the reality of Eternal Life, for in the Eucharist, we are seeing God Face to Face, and already have the depth of intimacy and union with God that heaven is. In the Eucharist, in our Communion with the Lord and with one another, we already have the fullness of the One Communion of Heaven itself. Although we are too near-sighted to see it, it is nonetheless the truth.

In the second reading, we have a description of all of the Saints gathered before the Throne of God. John, the Apostle is asked the question: “Do you know who all of these are, dressed in white robes?” He responds: “You alone would know sir!” “These are the ones who have survived the time of the great distress. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

Today we are celebrating a great mystery- we anticipate in this Eucharist what is already true: evil is conquered and despite the great chaos at work in the world today, and in the Church itself, the Blood of the Lamb has conquered sin and death, and we are already in union with the Lord as long as we remain one with the Lord!

When I was on retreat during my time of Vacation, for the first few days of the silent retreat, I found it very difficult to be still before the Lord. After praying about this frustration, Jesus said to me: “Vernon, chaos is not an impediment to my Grace!” From there on I found it easy to pray! At the end of my retreat, my Spiritual Director asked me to ask Jesus for an image to carry with me throughout the year. I did so, and the image He gave me, was an image of a little child embracing the feet of Jesus on the Cross! I am sharing this image with you,

because I know many of you are experiencing anxiety and discouragement during these hurtful times. Rejoice! You already belong to the Lord, in Him, as long as we are faithful, we have already won the battle. The Eucharist we celebrate and receive today, is the pledge of Jesus of our future and unending glory! Again, I say: Rejoice!