

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



All Souls, All Saints.

All the kids trick or treating are preparing for these two feasts.

They are, of course, unaware of this. There is a secular activity, fun filled and candy fueled. Sadly, they can miss the point.

Just as Christmas Eve has no meaning without Christmas.

New Year's Eve has no meaning without New Year's Day.

Halloween -Eve of All Hallows- only has meaning in relationship to All Hallows, that is, All Saints Day.

November 1st and November 2nd are the days we pray *to* All the Saints and *for* the Faithful Departed. Our lives do

not end in death, but rather change. When the first part of our life ends, the second part begins. While the first part of our life is mortal, finite, limited, and lasting a short time, the second part will last for eternity.

The way we live that eternity depends on us. The life we choose here accompanies us in the life hereafter, be that a life of love, forgiveness, and humility, or not. Heaven and Hell begin here on earth.

Purgatory is not a place, but a state of the soul. Our soul needs to be *purged* of all that does not behoove it, and this purgation will happen this side of the grave or the next. Purgation is an emptying out, a cleansing, a purification.

We do a lot of purging, e.g. we purge water heaters of sediment, we purge clothes dryer filters of lint, we 'purge' mud from our shoes.

Our society is obsessed with purgation: clean drinking water, lowering the carbon footprint, fossil fuel gases and the environment, climate change and saving the planet.

But who talks about the purgation within? What good is clean drinking water, or ice caps that don't melt, if we end up in Hell?

This side of the grave, there's a lot we can do to purge our own souls: Sacramental confession, desiring sincere conversion of heart, accepting the Crosses in our life, hidden acts of charitable kindnesses, alms giving in secret, bearing offenses and insults with patience, praying for our enemies.

After death, we can do nothing to purge our own souls. We rely on the suffrage, the intercession of others. Thus, we pray for the Faithful Departed on All Souls Day, especially for all those who rely on our intercessions, that their souls may be purged.

Our acts of charity, our bearing offenses patiently, our alms giving in secret, our denial of self, can be offered vicariously for those souls who have gone before us - for those known to us, or those unknown.

Come and celebrate the Mass of All Saints on Monday November 1st at 8:30am.

On Tuesday November 2nd at 6:30 pm we will have a special Memorial Mass for our loved ones who have passed to the Father during this past year. We invite all the families who have lost loved ones this past year to participate in this Mass. If you would like to have a family member remembered at this Mass, please contact the parish office.

Peace.

Fr. Sean