



Solemnity of All Saints

In the reading from the Book of Revelation, St. John describes a vision of what heaven looks like. He sees a throng of people too numerous to count who had come from every nation. They formed a court surrounding the Lamb. They wore white robes and carried palm branches. He witnessed angels present as well. When asked who these people might be, he did not know. He was told that "these are the ones who have survived the great period of trial; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

The fifth chapter of Matthew's Gospel records the words of Jesus clearly illustrating those who are blessed in His sight. The poor, the lowly, the hungry, the merciful, the single-hearted, the peacemakers, and the persecuted. These are called blessed by the Lord for they will be rewarded. Perhaps not in this present age but in the future age seen by St. John in his vision. This reward is for those children of God that John talks about in his first letter. You and I are those children as well. Our hope is based on trusting Christ in all things.

This Solemnity celebrating the Saints can be encouragement for all followers of Jesus. The saints are not perfect human beings but rather ordinary human beings who lived lives of extraordinary holiness. Many suffered and died for Christ. Now they experience the goal of their lives on earth, namely to behold the face of God and live forever in His presence. They are not only examples for us of holiness but our friends who intercede for us to God. We are rich because of our connection to the Church in heaven. May we all be united in that vision of God one day. Amen.

Peace,

Fr. Robert