ALL SAINTS DAY – NOVEMBER 1, 2026

Revelation 7:2-4,9-14 - John describes his vision: those who have endured the trials worship the Lamb.

1 John 3:1-3 - We are God's children now.

Matthew 5:1-12 - Jesus in the beatitudes, teaches us what it means to be truly happy.

We are saints in the making by becoming Like Jesus

Today, we celebrate all the saints in heaven - not just those whose names we know, but countless ordinary people who became holy through the grace of God. Regardless of age, country, skin color, or language, all saints lived for Jesus and reflected Christ to others. Some died for Jesus, too. Some are old, some are young like St Carlo Acutis. Canonized last September by Pope Leo, the Italian-born saint was only 15 years old when he died. But in his short life he spread his love of the Eucharist, for the Rosary, with digital savvy and deep faith. The saints may look different on the outside, but they all look similar on the inside: they embody the eight beatitudes Jesus spells out in the gospel today. They were not born saints. They struggled, failed, repented, and they kept following Jesus. What made them saints was not extraordinary achievements, but allowing Jesus to transform their ordinary lives. And here's the beautiful message of All Saints Day: The saints are not a different kind of people. They show us what people like us can become through God's grace.

Happiness - The Road to Sainthood

In today's gospel, Jesus gathers His disciples on the mountain and teaches them the Beatitudes. Blessed means happy, delighted, or blissful. Reading through these lines may reveal anything but happiness. Yet Jesus points the way to true happiness in the Beatitudes. They transform how we look at life. How does that transformation happen? By becoming apprentices of Jesus. An apprentice spends time with the master, learns from him, and gradually becomes like him. All saints celebration is an invitation to have a relationship with Jesus. It is not about been perfect, it is about trusting God who loves us. The beatitudes describe the character Jesus and show us what becoming like Him looks like. When pride gives way to humility, we are becoming like Jesus. When resentment gives way to forgiveness, we are becoming like Jesus. When anger gives way to reconciliation, we are becoming like Jesus. The Beatitudes are the signs that our apprenticeship with Jesus is bearing fruit. We are saints in the making by becoming Like Jesus.

The Spoon on the Floor: There was oatmeal all over the floor. A daughter recalled watching her mother care for her father after a stroke. One morning, as her mother tried to feed him, her father angrily knocked the spoon away, saying; "Stop treating me like a baby!" Exhausted and hurt, yet she paused, picked up the spoon, held his hand, and whispered; "I know you have lost

so much. But you have not lost me. I am here with you, my love." Those words and that moment stayed with their daughter for her whole life. Friends, that is what a saint looks like.

Jesus said; Blessed are the poor in spirit... Blessed are those who mourn... Blessed are the meek... Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness… Blessed are the merciful... Blessed are the pure in heart…. Blessed are the peacemakers…. Blessed are those who are persecuted… Blessed are you when insulted, persecuted, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely because of me".

Her mother chose gentleness over anger - "Blessed are the meek."

She chose mercy over resentment - "Blessed are the merciful."

She chose peace over retaliation - "Blessed are the peacemakers."

She was not just hearing the beatitudes. She was living them every single day.

Maybe we are passing through some great tribulations: a difficult marriage, financial hardship, sickness, rejection, loneliness, family problems, insecurity, addiction or disappointment in ministry. Today's reading reminds us that suffering does not have the final word. Jesus has the final victory.

Our Journey to Sainthood: So here is the question for All Saints Day: Am I simply admiring the saints, or am I following the same Jesus who made them saints? This week, choose one beatitude and deliberately live it. The saints have reached their destination. We are still on the journey. We are saints in the making by becoming Like Jesus. And by God's grace, may we one day join them in heaven.

Jesus, teach us to become more like You today, Amen.

-*Fr. Martin Ezeihuaku, MSP*