

Rectoría San Juan de Dios
All Souls' Day
Wis 3, 1-9; Ps 27; 1 Jn 3, 14-16; Mt 25, 31-46
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Let Us Begin the Definitive Life

The celebration of our faithful departed gives us the opportunity to reaffirm our faith in the resurrection and to begin to live the definitive life according to God's plan.

While we live in this temporal reality, we discover that we are not all equal. On the one hand, there are the foolish who live as if eternity does not exist. On the other hand, there are the just who live with the hope of a future life.

When we go to the cemetery or pray for our deceased loved ones, what do we find there? Materially, only the physical remains of those whom we love. But spiritually, we find a lens through which the window to eternity is opened to us. Although there is nothing material that communicates these two realities, it is the life of the Spirit that allows us, through love, to penetrate deeper. We are not reduced to the temporal dimension nor to what we can perceive empirically; a life like that loses its ultimate meaning, its most profound reason for existence. We, on the contrary, are made for the eternity of God; consequently, all other hope becomes a vain illusion.¹

¹ We can consider those who have died as a family, united by spiritual ties. It is a mysterious but real bond that is nurtured by prayer, especially through the Eucharist. Here Christ opens the door to eternal life, where our intercessory prayers gain strength and change our

How eternal do you feel? I think more as you are loving more. This is the key to living the definitive life from now on. To love in action, with works of mercy, as we heard in the Gospel today, paying attention to those who are hungry and thirsty or are foreigners or those who have nothing to clothe themselves or prisoners and ill persons who are alone.² We should not identify these only with the indigent street people but with all the persons who enter into our universe of relationships. Those relationships in our family and work environments are the propitious way for living the definitive life from now on.

Let us try these three attitudes:

1-Let us ensure that we are in the hands of God.

It seems difficult, but in reality it is not. It is about understanding that suffering is not to be seen as punishment but as hope in immortality. In the first reading, we heard that our leaving this world does not mean our destruction but peace.

We put ourselves in the hands of God when we see the adversities of this life as a challenge to overcome in the experience of hope and the exercise of charity.

2-Let us pass from suffering to love.

If we think about it, we realize that suffering is somewhat childish. He who suffers does not want to give his

present life; we pray for each other in charity, exchanging our spiritual gifts.

² “[E]ternity is not an unending succession of days in the calendar, but something more like the supreme moment of satisfaction, in which totality embraces us and we embrace totality... of being, of truth, of love.” Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter, *SPE SALVI* ¶12, 2007.

life, he flees from giving himself to others, and he is not capable of loving. He suffers because he is clinging capriciously like a child to his own plan without giving any importance to the plans of God or others.

To pass from suffering to love means to understand that love is the surrender of our life so that others may have life. He who does not love remains in death.

3-Let us live life to the fullest.

In this practice, there are many who are ahead of us, many who have achieved love through works in an extraordinary way. The more love we have for others, the more fullness we will have in our life.

We could ask ourselves: How much am I living a definitive life? And we answer: As much as I do as many works of mercy as possible. There are those who do not even need to have someone ask them to help in their need. They are persons who are living fully, who have acquired a special sensitivity for discovering the need of others and they step forward to serve. They perceive an indigent as joyful news. Why? Because it is a new opportunity to love someone in this way, in the gift of themselves.