

COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFULL DEPARTED

WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME...SHALL HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

Today, our Mother the Church opens a space to help us practice mercy and remember our deceased loved ones in our prayers in a special way.

While it is true that in our country, and particularly in San Miguel de Allende, remembering our deceased loved ones has a festive character, there is also an atmosphere of nostalgia and sadness for those we love who are no longer with us.

This atmosphere of nostalgia should not fill us with guilt and despair. It is completely human to experience sadness and weep for the separation from our loved ones; this does not diminish our faith.

But it is important not to remain there. We are invited to live this process from the perspective of faith and hope in Christ, who died and rose again. In Him we have victory over death.

The question is, how do we honor the memory of our loved ones? First, we should thank God for the opportunity to have had them in our lives, for the values they have passed on to us, and for the years we have shared with each of them.

But our life is sustained by our faith, and this same faith tells us that whoever believes in Christ will have eternal life.

Therefore, death is not an end, but a door that opens for an encounter with the God of love. That is why the Apostle St Paul reminds us that, even though our earthly dwelling may crumble, God has prepared for us an eternal mansion in heaven.

It is true that through death the earthly journey has ended, but our loved ones are already on their way to the Father's house, where there will be joy and complete happiness, no pain or worry.

This commemoration of the faithful departed is linked to the solemn feast of All Saints. The saints of God already fully enjoy that eternal happiness; that is why we call it the Church Triumphant. Our loved ones, who are on their way to the Father's house, are part of the Church Suffering; that is, they must first be purified through our prayers in order to behold the face of God.

Finally, we, as the pilgrim Church or the Church Militant, ask for the intercession of both the Church Triumphant and the Church Suffering so that we may all be reunited together in the heavenly Jerusalem.

This process, which we experience through faith and hope, reminds us that our God is not a God of the dead, but of the living. Today we remember and celebrate the lives of our loved ones who have passed away, but we do not remain contemplating their graves; we keep them present in our hearts, in our lives, in our faith.

And through faith, we recognize that Christ has given us new life through the power of his resurrection.

Let us honor the memory of those we love by living charity and forgiveness intensely, valuing every moment of our lives, putting into practice the legacy we have received from each of them, and illuminating this legacy with our faith. I want to conclude this reflection by saying that for those of us who have faith, life doesn't end, it only transforms. But it's important to live our lives to the fullest, right here and now, allowing ourselves to be touched by Jesus and his message of love. Let us nourish ourselves with the bread of life, Jesus in the Eucharist, and prepare ourselves to participate one day in the heavenly banquet, which is eternal.

Let us ask our Mother in Heaven, Mother of all believers, to intercede for her entire Church, so that together with her, we may eternally contemplate the face of God.