THIRTY- SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



PASTOR'S CORNER

How we remember the dead is significant in how we live in time. This statement underlines the need to exercise the gift of our faith, hope and love, because in some of our prayers for the dead, we use this phrase: May their memory be eternal. We want the dead to live in heaven as well as in our memory. But our memory should not be self-pitying or indulging in what we have lost. First and foremost, it ought to be a sincere expression of our gratitude, because when we remember our deceased with gratitude, this prayer includes a wish for their fullness of eternal life. Moreover, this remembering helps us recognize that our lives are still interwoven, because we profess every Sunday that we believe in the communion of saints. This spiritual connection is meant to remind us of our desire to be at home with God, especially when we gather to bury someone. This is the time when we simply remember who we are and who is waiting for us on the other side of life, because our existence is not just a brief crack of light between two eternities of darkness, as some people tend to profess. It is more than that, for we come from God and return to the Lord to receive much more than anyone could ask, expect, imagine, or deserve.

Unfortunately, for those who have no faith in the life to come, that dreadful nothingness, wearing the mask of death, will return when they take their last breath, for consequences are real, and the past cannot be changed. As they say, "Different people, different values". And yet we, who stand with Jesus, do need to pray that they will not remain in the vortex of confusion and indifference forever. Perhaps they cannot see beyond the horizon as they advance, but as someone once wrote, "If they cannot see beyond the horizon, God does; and what He sees is beautiful." <u>And this statement is just as real and solid as the earth itself, and as our faith in God.</u>



Fr. Slawek

NOVEMBER 12, 2023

