



Bishop's Reflection - November 2021

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are quickly coming to the end of our liturgical year. With the month of November, we are reminded of the brevity of our lives and of those who have gone before us - the Souls in Purgatory.

The Church reminds us, especially, this during time of year of the importance of praying, doing penance and offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the *faithful departed*, as we uphold the teaching of the Church on Purgatory. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "All who die in God's Grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven" (CCC 1030). This time of year can remind us is the Church's teaching on what is referred to as the Last Things - Heaven, Hell and Purgatory.

The month of November presents a perfect opportunity for the clergy of our diocese to offer a catechesis on the teaching of Purgatory; the purpose of offering Mass intentions; and the importance of catechizing the faithful about the Church's beautiful Liturgy in regard to death and Christian burial. Also, this offers an opportunity to promote the Eucharist Revival as we learn more of the role and impact of liturgy in the reality of everyday life.

With the pandemic, so many families were not able to benefit from the comfort and closure that our funeral rites offer. A suggestion would be to offer Masses during this month for the intentions of families who lost loved ones due to the pandemic and were not able to have the proper ceremonies for their loved ones.

With hope, let us encourage and accompany one another as we prepare to cross the threshold from this life to eternal life. It is there, at that destined moment, when we will encounter Jesus, our Savior and Judge!

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.
May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace
Amen.

In the Peace of Christ,

Bishop Cotta