All Saints' Day
Apocalypse 7:2–4, 9–14 / 1 John 3:1–3 / Matthew 5:1–12

Wearing white clothing can be challenging. Every little speck of dust or stain is immediately visible. Think of a bride in her wedding gown, the white Alb worn by a priest, or the white garment given at Baptism. These garments symbolize purity, holiness, and our belonging to God.

But keeping a white garment clean is not easy.

In the same way, keeping our Christian lives pure and holy is not easy. We face temptations, and through our weaknesses and sins, we sometimes stain the garment of grace we received at Baptism. Sometimes, we even become comfortable with those stains, forgetting that God has called us to holiness.

Today, as we celebrate All Saints' Day, we remember that the saints were human beings just like us. They were not perfect. They had their own weaknesses and struggles.

St. Peter denied Jesus three times, yet he repented and became the first Pope.

St. Paul persecuted Christians, but after encountering Jesus on the road to Damascus, his life was transformed.

St. Augustine struggled with sin, but through the prayers of his mother, St. Monica, and the grace of God, he became a great saint.

What made them saints was not that they were perfect, but that they allowed God's grace to transform their lives.

In the first reading, we hear about the great multitude wearing white robes, robes washed clean in the blood of the Lamb. They remained faithful to Christ through their struggles and received the cleansing power of His grace.

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us the Beatitudes. He tells us that the meek, the merciful, the peacemakers, and those who hunger for righteousness are blessed.

But following this path is not always easy. The world tells us that power is strength and that being gentle is weakness. Yet Jesus calls us to love, forgive, and remain faithful.

There is a beautiful reflection often attributed to St. Mother Teresa. It says:

"If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.

What you spend years building; someone may destroy overnight. Build anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough. Give the best you've got anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God; it was never between you and them anyway."

My dear brothers and sisters, this is the spirit of the saints.

They continued to love, forgive, serve, and remain faithful, even when life was difficult.

They fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith.
And we are called to do the same.
Let me share with you a beautiful story.
A farmer had two large clay containers for carrying water. He hung them on the two ends of a pole and carried the pole across his shoulders.
One container was in perfect condition. The other had a crack in it.
Every day, the farmer went to the well and carried water back to his house. But because of the crack, the second container leaked water along the way. By the time they reached home, it had delivered only half the water.
The cracked container felt ashamed.
One day, it said to the farmer, "I am sorry. Because of my defect, I cannot bring you a full container of water. I am not doing my job properly."
The farmer smiled and said, "Have you noticed the beautiful flowers along the path on your side? I knew about your crack. So, I planted flower seeds along the path. Every day, as you leak water, you water those flowers. Because of you, the pathway has become beautiful."
What a beautiful lesson!
The container thought its crack was a weakness. But the farmer used that very weakness to bring beauty into the world.
My dear friends, we are also like those containers.
We all have our cracks. We have our weaknesses, failures, regrets, and sins. Sometimes, we feel ashamed of ourselves. We may even think that because of our imperfections, God cannot use us.
But today's feast reminds us that God does not need perfect people. He needs people who are willing to trust Him.
As St. Paul reminds us, "When I am weak, then I am strong," because the power of Christ dwells in our weakness.
In today's second reading, St. John reminds us:
"See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called children of God. Yet so we are."
Holiness is not reserved for a few special people. It is our calling. We are all called to become saints.
Today, the saints remind us that holiness is possible. When we fall, let us not despair. Let us turn back to Jesus, ask for His mercy, and allow His grace to wash our garments clean.
And let us keep walking the path of holiness with courage, kindness, forgiveness, and love.
May we one day join all the saints in heaven, wearing the white garments washed in the blood of the Lamb.
Amen.