



Shrine of Saint Jude Thaddeus

Dominican Friars

October 15, 2018

Let us help and commemorate them. If Job's sons were purified by their father's sacrifice (Job 1:5), why would we doubt that our offerings for the dead bring them some consolation? Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them.

—St. John Chrysostom

Dear Friends of St. Jude,

A young man once asked Our Lord, “Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?” (Matthew 22:36) Our Lord gave *the* answer that has existed since the beginning of the human race and shall exist until the end of days: “You shall love the Lord God with all your heart and with all your soul, and the second is like it, love your neighbor as yourself.”

What do these commandments have in common, and why would God bind them so tightly together that man could never separate them without risking his own soul? It is this: that God is love, and love always, *always* seeks the good of the other for the sake of the other – God first, and then our fellow man; and love cannot rest until it finds peace and communion in that which it loves. Consider the Holy Souls. They can give us nothing for our aid by prayers and sacrifices – we love, expecting nothing in return; love for love’s sake.

These two commandments are linked here especially with the Holy Souls because they deal with what we cannot see. St. John says, “... anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen” (1 John 4:20). We pray for our brothers and sisters whom we can no longer see in this life, because *love* is what overcomes our lack of vision. Eye does not see, but the heart does.

And love will not let us rest until we are with them – our beloved family, friends, brothers and sisters, all one, all at rest in God, the source of that love. Love lives, even when the body dies! This is why Our Lord says “Blessed are they who mourn” in His beatitudes – because we have His promise that love is stronger than death, and the object of our love *yet lives*.

So the month of Holy Souls, November, is not a month of sorrow, but most truly a month of love, and a great witness to the power of love made flesh in Christ, in seeking to save us from our sins and from ourselves. Knowing all this, we can dare to hope, we can dare to love, and offer our prayers and Masses for all our faithful departed this month. This is truly one of the most beautiful things of our Holy Faith. Blessed be God!

Sincerely in Christ and St. Jude,

Fr. Dismas Sayre, O.P.
Director

