

*Month of November*

November 4, 2018

The month of November begins with a wonderful Feast celebrating all the Saints in Heaven. It is to the Church Triumphant that we fix our gaze on the first day to help encourage us and ask assistance in the effort required to place ourselves in the ranks of the conquerors. The Epistle for the Mass is from the Apocalypse where we read of “the great multitude which no man could number, of all nations, and tribes, and peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and in sight of the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands.” (Apoc. 7:9) We received a white garment at baptism. Let us keep it unsullied and live so as to assure ourselves of “the victor’s palm”.

The next day we look to the Church Suffering, where we have occasion to recall our duty toward the dead. We should strive to obtain for as many as possible the plenary indulgence which the Church generously places at our disposal during the first eight days of the month. All we have to do, besides meeting the usual conditions of a plenary indulgence, is make a visit to a cemetery and there pray for the souls of the faithful departed. The usual conditions for a plenary indulgence are prayers for the Holy Father’s intentions, be in the state of grace and make a good confession (within twenty days), receive Holy Communion with the intention of gaining an indulgence and be detached from all sin, even venial. Though it may not be easy to meet all the conditions, it is very beneficial for us to try. For if we make the effort, we are on the path that leads to life.

The whole month is dedicated to the Souls in Purgatory, so let us pray for them and assist them to enter fully into the Light Eternal. The more souls we help, the more friends we will have in heaven helping us in our battles. What a wonderful thought to encourage praying for the Holy Souls.

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