



The Holy See

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

POPE FRANCIS

ANGELUS

Saint Peter's Square

Wednesday, 1st November 2023

[[Multimedia](#)]

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno*, and happy feast day!

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints. In the light of this feast day, let us pause and think a little about holiness, in particular about two of the characteristics of true holiness: it is a *gift* — it is a gift, it cannot be bought — and at the same time it is a *journey*. A *gift* and a *journey*.

First of all, a *gift*. Holiness is a gift from God which we have received with Baptism: if we let it grow, it can completely change our life (cf. Apostolic Exhortation *[Gaudate et exsultate](#)*, 15). Saints are not unreachable or distant heroes, but people like us, our friends, whose starting point is the same gift we have received: Baptism. Indeed, if we think about it, we have certainly met some of them, some everyday saints: some righteous person, someone who lives the Christian life seriously, with simplicity... they are those I like to call “the saints next door”, who live normally among us. Holiness is a gift offered to everyone for a happy life. And after all, when we receive a gift, what is our first reaction? It is precisely that we are happy, because it means that someone loves us; and the gift of holiness makes us happy because God loves us.

But every gift, however, must be accepted, and it carries with it the responsibility of a response, a “thank you”. But how can we say this “thank you”? It is an invitation to commit oneself so that it is not squandered. All the baptized have received the same calling to hold on to and complete in our

lives the holiness we have received (cf. *Lumen gentium*, 40). This is how we come to the second point: holiness is also a *journey*, a journey to be made together, helping each other, united with those excellent companions who are the saints.

They are our elder brothers and sisters, on whom we can always count: the saints support us and, when we take a wrong turn along the way, with their silent presence they never fail to correct us. They are sincere friends, whom we can trust, because they desire our well-being. In their lives we find an example, in their prayers we receive help and friendship, and with them we are bound in a bond of brotherly love.

Holiness is a journey, it is a gift. So, we can ask ourselves: do I remember having received the gift of the Holy Spirit, who calls me to holiness and helps me arrive there? Do I thank the Holy Spirit for this, for the gift of holiness? Do I feel that the saints are close to me, do I talk to them, do I turn to them? Do I know the story of some of them? It is good for us to know the lives of the saints and to be moved by their example. And it does us a great deal of good to address them in prayer.

May Mary, Queen of all Saints, make us feel the joy of the gift received and increase in us the desire for the eternal destination.

After the Angelus the Holy Father continued:

Dear brothers and sisters, I greet you all affectionately, pilgrims from various countries, families, parish groups, associations and school groups.

In particular, I greet the faithful from Allensbach, Germany, those from Monterrey (Mexico) and the students of the School of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Nykøbing Falster in Denmark, as well as the Roman Group of volunteers of the National State Police Association.

I am pleased to welcome participants in the *Corsa dei Santi*, [the race] organized by the “Don Bosco Missions” Foundation to experience the feast of All Saints in a popular dimension. Thank you for your fine initiative and for your presence!

Tomorrow morning, I will celebrate Mass in the Cemetery for the fallen of the Commonwealth during the Second World War.

And let us continue to pray for the peoples who are suffering due to today’s wars. Let us not forget tormented Ukraine, let us not forget Palestine, let us not forget Israel and let us not forget the many other regions where war is still raging

And I wish you all a happy feast day in the spiritual company of the Saints. Please, do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch. *Arrivederci!*