

To: All Spiritual facilitators, conference presidents and members of the Board and Vincentian Council

From: Msgr. Sam Bianco (msgr.sambianco@yahoo.ca)

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RE: Spiritual Reading for November

Dear Sisters and Brothers

November is the month in which we especially remember all those who are departed and we pray for them.

The Catechism of the Church (1054) says "those who die in God's grace and friendship imperfectly purified although they are assured of their eternal salvation, undergo a purification after death, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of God". This is called purgatory.

The Catechism also says (1055) "by virtue of the communion of saints the church commends the dead to God's mercy and offers her prayers, especially the holy sacrifice of the Eucharist on their behalf."

In 1 Peter 1:7 it is written:" so that the genuineness of your faith - being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire - maybe found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed".

Everyone, even the holiest person, when he or she dies has some element of sin or darkness of spirit within them. Fire burns and purifies and it also brings warmth and light. This is what purgatory is; the burning away of all evil in the full light and warmth of Jesus' face. It happens in an instantaneous moment. We pray for all the faithful departed that when they come face-to-face with Jesus they will reach out their arms in love and be received in his arms which are reaching out to them in love.

In November we remember especially all those departed family, friends, relatives, those who have suffered and those who have died in war, famine, and because of cruelty of humans or accidents of nature that all will be received into God's kingdom.

Reflection:

Make a list of all those public persons, nations, and victims of war and suffering who have died whom you want to remember in prayer.

Make a private, confidential personal list of those you want to keep in silent prayer and remember them.

Share with the group you are in the public names, people, countries, groups you wish to remember in prayer

If you so choose you can mention names from your personal list. Conclude your list, prayers of the faithful with this prayer:

"Eternal rest grant unto your servants Lord.

Let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace.

May their souls and the source of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen”.