**Solidarity with Sisters’ Communal Prayer for Sunday, Nov. 1, 2020,**

**The Feast of All Saints**

*“All you holy men and women, pray for us.”*

**TECHNICAL CHECK-IN (Betty)**

I’m Betty Thompson and I welcome you here on behalf of Solidarity with Sisters.

* We sent the files of readings, responses, and lyrics.
* Camera, Gallery/Speaker view. Second screen? Mute/unmute, even during singing.
* **I will now mute everybody.** Unmute to speak.

Now let’s put technical things aside.

**WELCOME (Betty)**

Welcome, everyone!

* Introductions – people who haven’t been here before?
* Suzie and I had the pleasure of preparing today’s communal prayer.
* Thanks to Stu Sklamm, Linda Donaldson, and Reggie Ott for making us musical.
* Thanks to the people who will be reading and leading us in prayer today: Jim De Quattro, Andy Thompson, Pat Gabig, Peg Duchesne, Richard McGinnis, Mary Ott, Marie McCarthy, Dan and Karen McCarthy, and George Urban.
* If you’d like to read on future Sundays, please get in touch.
* And as we settle in on this great Feast of All Saints, let’s remember very specially Fr. Eliot Nitz, who touched many of us with his loving ministry at St. John’s until his sudden death this past Monday.

**SETTLING IN (Betty)**

Settle into a comfortable position. Feel any tightness in your body and let your muscles loosen and relax. Let your thoughts relax, too, and let distractions slide away if you are able. Notice your breath as it goes in and out. As you exhale, let tensions leave you. As you inhale, let ease fill you, and feel God’s love flowing into you. And now let’s take 3 deep breaths. One to be here… one to be together….and one to create space for the Spirit.

**OPENING/ GATHERING – LITANY OF OUR SAINTS (Linda Donaldson, De Quattros, Thompsons)**

**Betty**: Today, All Saints Day, we gather in God’s presence with everyone who has ever sought to live the Beatitudes. We begin with our own Litany of the Saints, to celebrate that we are a vast community of sinful yet redeemed followers of Christ, living and dead. Thank you for sharing the names of your special holy ones – Suzie and I felt so enriched by you as we put together **six** sets of spoken names! Now as you hear the names, be mindful of the times *they* lived in and know that they are with us in *this* time, in this week of the election. And so we pray, keeping ourselves muted as we join Linda Donaldson in the refrain:

**Linda:** Our refrain is: All you holy men and women, pray for us!

(Linda invites everyone to join her in singing the refrain.)

(Using melody from Sinsinawa Dominicans with Sr. Marcia Holthaus, OP: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCMyauEmdqM>)

**Linda**: (singing) ---

Mary and Joseph Pray for us.

John the Baptist Pray for us.

A picture containing table, food, sitting, group

Description automatically generatedPatrons of our parishes Pray for us.

Foundresses and founders Pray for us.

Women religious living the Gospel Pray for us.

Prophetic voices from the margins Pray for us.

Saints of daily holiness Pray for us.

Mystics and martyrs Pray for us.

**Linda (and all, muted) –** All you holy men and women, pray for us!

**Suzie and Jim (speaking):** (Names each followed by “pray for us.”)

Mother Mary Lange

St. Angela Merici

St. Madeline Sophie Barat

St. Mother Theodore Guerin

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

St. Jane de Chantal

St. Clare of Assisi

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

St. Katherine Drexel

St. Ignatius of Loyola

St. Louise de Marillac, DC

**Linda (and all, muted) –** All you holy men and women, pray for us!

**Betty and Andy (speaking):** (Names each followed by “pray for us.”)

Marion Baranowski

William "Bill" Stanley

Marguerite Ballard

Frances Dunnington

Dolores Smerz

Margaret Strickler

Bernis Barry Anger

Maisie Lowrie

**Linda (and all, muted) –** All you holy men and women, pray for us!

**Suzie and Jim (speaking):** (Names each followed by “pray for us.”)

Sr. Margaret Clayton, SND

Sr. Rosemary Dougherty, SSND (pronounced Dorrity)

Sr. Rosemary Flanigan, CSJ

Sr. Naureen Marie Kelly, OSF

Sr. Rita Kaufman, Sister of Mercy

Sr. Beth McGlynn, SSND

Sr. Denise Désil, PSST  Haiti

Sr. Theresa Byrne, Dominican

**Linda (and all, muted) –** All you holy men and women, pray for us!

**Betty and Andy (speaking):** (Names each followed by “pray for us.”)

St. Teresa of Avila

St. Hildegard of Bingen

St. Therese of Lisieux, Little Flower

St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina

St. Marie Rose Ferron “Little Rose”

St. Joan of Arc

St. Oscar Romero

St. Maximilian Kolbe

St. Cecilia

St. Edith Stein

Srs. Dorothy Kazel, Maura Clarke, Ita Ford; and Jean Donovan

**Linda (and all, muted) –** All you holy men and women, pray for us!

**Suzie and Jim (speaking):** (Names each followed by “pray for us.”)

Sts. Patrick, Brigid and Kevin

St. Dymphna

St. Kateri Tekawitha

St. Rose Philippine Duchesne

St. Bernadette

St. Martin de Porres

St. Anthony of Padua

St. Catherine of Siena

St. Gerard Majella

**Linda (and all, muted) –** All you holy men and women, pray for us!

**Betty and Andy (speaking):** (Names each followed by “pray for us.”)

St. Damien

St. Pope John Paul II

St. Francis of Assisi

St. Pope John XXIII

Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin

Rev. Martin Luther King

Cesar Chavez & Dolores Huerta

John Lewis

St. Josephine Bakhita

**Linda (and all, muted) –**All you holy men and women, pray for us!

**Linda (solo):**

Gracious God among us, hear our prayer.

We live in this communion, hear our prayer.

Among your saints and loved ones, hear our prayer.

Always in your Spirit, hear our prayer.

**Linda (and all, muted) –**All you holy men and women, pray for us!

**GREETING (Suzie De Quattro)**

Beloved community, rejoice! The Spirit of God is alive among us!

Response: And all God’s people reply: Amen, Alleluia!

**CALL TO WORSHIP/ INTRO TO THEME (Suzie)**

We gather today to know who we are as the communion of saints. Everyone we just named, and millions more unnamed, are accomplices with us in God’s mission.

“Living in the communion of saints means that we can take ourselves very seriously (we are part of a Great Whole) and not take ourselves too seriously at all (we are just a part of the Great Whole!). We are ‘partners in God’s triumphant parade” through time and history.’ We are each a very small part of a very Big Thing!”

The Beatitudes are our entry point to mature membership in the communion of saints. The Beatitudes ask us to hold contradictions. Jesus assures us that God blesses and transforms us when we open ourselves to difficult realities. In mysterious ways, divine action does indeed reach into what’s harsh, harmful, or violent, and gives us God’s vision. Where others see poverty, mourning, persecution, hunger, and humiliation, we see God’s Kingdom emerging and we find all we need, even comfort and fulfillment. And most of all we find connectedness. All that is difficult becomes intertwined in a greater love that holds all things together. That connected love is the blessing we receive, and the blessing we give. That is what happens in the communion of saints.

Now Pat Gabig will read from the 7th chapter of the Revelation of John. Then Jim De Quattro will offer questions for our reflection.

**READING 1: FROM REVELATION 7 (Pat Gabig)**

I had a vision of a great multitude,  
which no one could count,  
from every nation, race, people, and tongue.  
They stood before the throne and before the Lamb,  
wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands.  
They cried out in a loud voice:  
  
“Amen. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving,  
honor, power, and might  
be to our God forever and ever. Amen.”

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS 1 (Jim De Quattro)**

How do you experience the Communion of Saints?

In this great multitude of saints, who are you called to be? What is your vocation?

**SILENCE (Set timer, sound chime after 2 minutes) (Betty)**

Betty: Now Peg Duchesne will read from the 5th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew.

**READING 2: MATTHEW 5 (THE BEATITUDES) (Peg Duchesne)**

[Mt 5:1-12a](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/matthew/5?1)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain,  
and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.   
He began to teach them, saying:  
  
“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are they who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the land.  
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be satisfied.  
Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.  
Blessed are the clean of heart,   
for they will see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.  
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,  
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you  
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.  
Rejoice and be glad,  
for your reward will be great in heaven.”

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS 2 (Jim De Quattro)**

Which of these beatitudes evokes a strong feeling in you? Spend some time with that feeling.

The beatitudes ask us to live a countercultural life. How do you experience insults or rejection in doing this? How do you experience blessing in this?

**SILENCE (Set timer, sound chime after 2 minutes) (Betty)**

Betty: Now Richard McGinnis will offer a reflection based on one by Sr. Mary McGlone.

**READING 3: REFLECTION (Richard McGinnis)**

In what we call the Beatitudes, Jesus tells his disciples – and that means us – how to catch onto his understanding of life. We can group his eight insights into three sets: first, what needs to happen inside us; then, how we treat others; and last, the results we can hope for.

First we notice what Jesus says about our inner life. To be poor in spirit, meek, and pure in heart, means that we trust God for everything -- because we know God is in love with us. In that trust, we make a pure-hearted choice to do nothing at all except respond to God’s great love. We lean on grace. Then, regardless of our circumstances, we can gratefully sing with Mary, “The Lord has done great things for me.”

Second, Jesus speaks about how we treat others. He tells us that blessing comes to us when our actions express our longing for the world as God created it to be. And so we mourn over the gap between that world as it can become, and current reality. Wehunger and thirst for justice. We live with mercy because we know that when ***we*** received mercy, it made us whole and brought us closer to others. All this equips us to be peacemakers.

Last, Jesus tells us that blessing comes even in the difficult consequences of that way of life. Like him, we are likely to encounter lies, persecution, and rejection. And like him, we are blessed and transformed in that encounter because we are choosing to live in God. When we live in God, we abide in God’s Kingdom, even if the world hasn’t quite caught up yet.

Who does this? Our litany of saints gives us many answers. Saints are set apart, not by their intelligence, talent, education, work, mother tongue or culture, but by the fact that, like Jesus and Mary, they have accepted their life as a vocation to holiness, an opportunity to receive and spread God's limitless love.

From Nov. 1 to Nov. 7, we are celebrating [National Vocation Awareness Week](https://nrvc.net/274/publication/4171/article/18685-2019-national-vocation-awareness-week-nov-3-9), a reminder that each of us has a unique path to sainthood. Some are called to religious life or priesthood; all are invited to live the joy of beatitude.

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS 3 (Jim De Quattro)**

How do you lean on grace?

In the weeks and months after the election, what beatitudes or personal saints will help shape who you want to be?

**SILENCE (Set timer, sound chime after 2 minutes) (Betty)**

Betty: Now Mary Ott will lead us in sharing reflections.

**SHARING TIME (Mary Ott)**

We invite you to briefly share what emerged in **your** heart this morning as you listened and as you reflected on these readings. That helps us to glimpse the many ways God is among us. We welcome new voices, and we also know that the wisdom of this community includes both words shared and silent listening,

As you share your feelings, please use "I” or “me". And let's leave a bit of silence between speakers. A bridge of silence allows us to take in what was just said and gives others the chance to gather their feelings to share.

So let’s begin in silence as we gather our reflections. (Pause for 30 seconds.)

Now who would like to start our sharing? Remember to unmute yourself to speak and mute yourself again afterwards.

[Sharing]

Is there anyone else who would like to share? [Pause.]

Thank you.

Now Stu Sklamm will lead us into a music meditation of where charity and love prevails. Then Sister Marie McCarthy will lead us in prayer.

**COMMUNITY PRAYERS (Stu Sklamm and Marie McCarthy)**

**Stu:** Contemplative musical meditation: **Where Charity and Love Prevail**.

**Marie:** Through our prayers, we express what it means to be the communion of saints, living the beatitudes. And so we pray. Our response will be: Spirit of Love, hear our prayer.

God among us, thank you for the holy ones who walk with us on your way. For this we pray. Spirit of Love, hear our prayer.

God within us, give insight to people who are discerning their vocation in life, at each stage in life. Show us when and how to cooperate with you for the future of religious life. For this we pray. Spirit of Love, hear our prayer.

God beyond us, we pray in longing for the election of leaders at every level who will help your kingdom to emerge. And bless our elections with wisdom, freedom, safety, and timely, peaceful resolution. For this we pray. Spirit of Love, hear our prayer.

God of abundance, unite us with the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in building bridges toward being your beloved community. For this we pray. Spirit of Love, hear our prayer.

For what else shall we pray? Please unmute yourself to speak, and mute yourself afterwards.

(Shared prayers)

Holy Spirit, we give you our prayers, those spoken and unspoken. Please show us our roles in making them real, even as we entrust the outcome to you. Inspire us to call on you and on the communion of saints as we do so. Amen.

**OFFERING/STEWARDSHIP (George Urban)**

Often, through our shared reflections, we discern a call to take some kind of action.

Let us now take time to name within ourselves something we will offer to others this week in recognition of all that we have received from God. [Pause.]

In thanksgiving for the presence and power of Jesus Christ, and in unity with the Holy Spirit, let us pray. God of abundance, we commit to sharing our time, talents, and treasures so we that we may be a light and a witness to the transforming love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION (Dan McCarthy)**

O Great Love, we are humbled and emboldened

to know that you trust us to be your body in this world.

We are part of that body as we let go of all that separates us from you,

and as we embrace one another and your entire creation with merciful love.

We give you thanks for your presence in us. [Pause.]

We remember the night before Jesus died.

At dinner with friends, Jesus knew all that would soon be asked of them,

and, loving them to the end, Jesus showed them how to care for each other

as they went out into the world.

First Jesus washed their feet.

Then he looked at what was in front of them, the bread and the cup,

gifts of the earth and work of human hands, and blessed them.

So let us, too, invite God right now into what is front and center in our lives

knowing that God will indeed enter what we offer – and bless it. [Pause.]

Let us invite God into ourselves so that we become God’s living presence. [Pause.]

Holy One, you transform us as you nourish us here.

May we nourish others with your presence.

Amen.

**OUR FATHER (Karen McCarthy)**

Now let us join our hearts as if we could join our hands to pray in harmony with Christians throughout the world in the words that Jesus gave us:

**All (muted):** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us,

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

**FINAL BLESSING (Betty)**

While we keep ourselves muted, let us reach out our hands and bless each other:

God of infinite grace, bless our communion with each other and with all saints.

Bless us to be your “holy people, touched with the fire of the Spirit,

summoned to go forth as companions

bringing the face of divine compassion into everyday life and

the great struggles of history,

wrestling with evil, and

delighting even now when fragments of

justice, peace, and healing gain however small a foothold.”

Amen.

**CLOSING SONG --** When the Saints Go Marching In **(Reggie Ott)**

Oh, when the [saints](https://www.definitions.net/definition/saints) go [marching](https://www.definitions.net/definition/marching) in.

Oh, when the [saints](https://www.definitions.net/definition/saints) go [marching](https://www.definitions.net/definition/marching) in,

Oh Lord, I want to be in that number

When the [saints](https://www.definitions.net/definition/saints) go [marching](https://www.definitions.net/definition/marching) in!

Oh, when the sun begins to shine,

Oh, when the sun begins to shine,

Oh Lord, I want to be in that number

When the sun begins to shine!

Oh, when God’s love unites us all.

Oh, when God’s love unites us all,

Oh Lord, I want to be in that number

When God’s love unites us all!

Oh, when the [saints](https://www.definitions.net/definition/saints) go [marching](https://www.definitions.net/definition/marching) in.

Oh, when the [saints](https://www.definitions.net/definition/saints) go [marching](https://www.definitions.net/definition/marching) in,

Oh Lord, I want to be in that number

When the [saints](https://www.definitions.net/definition/saints) go [marching](https://www.definitions.net/definition/marching) in!

**SOURCES AND RESOURCES:**

Art: “The Communion of Saints” by Ira Thomas

*“Waves of individual persons are united in an embrace for all eternity in Heaven.”*  
[http://www.catholicworldart.com/Communion.html](https://t.umblr.com/redirect?z=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.catholicworldart.com%2FCommunion.html&t=NTdjYTM1YWFkMjVmNDY5YTcyMzE0NWQ5OTY4M2Y1YTE0ZGQ3MjhmNSxIcDlyVDRxMw%3D%3D&b=t%3AiNE_LII_gX_ukr8ciW1d6A&p=https%3A%2F%2Fglobalworship.tumblr.com%2Fpost%2F119142509690%2Fthe-communion-of-saints-art-more&m=1&ts=1603391371)

Sr. Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ

“Communion of Saints” — [Truly Our Sister](https://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/books/books.php?id=6002)

“Circle of Friends: A closer look at the communion of saints in US Catholic” (related to her book, *Friends of God and Prophets*) <https://uscatholic.org/articles/201101/circle-of-friends-a-closer-at-the-communion-of-saints/>

Sr. Mary McGlone, CSJ - <https://www.ncronline.org/sunday-resource/nov-1-2020-solemnity-all-saints>

Fr. [Richard Rohr](http://myemail.constantcontact.com/Daily-Meditation--The-Communion-of-Saints----Frame----May-28--2013.html?soid=1103098668616&aid=0OFMfECF-aw)**, OFM**

**On the communion of saints: Quoted by Rose Marie Berger at** <http://rosemarieberger.com/2013/05/28/richard-rohr-living-in-the-communion-of-saints/>

On the Beatitudes: <https://cac.org/be-connected-2017-04-18/>

<https://cac.org/be-whole-hearted-2017-04-20/>

<https://cac.org/be-peaceable-be-free-2017-04-21/>

**Sr. Joan Chittister, OSB - quoted at** <http://rosemarieberger.com/2015/11/01/joan-chittister-the-feast-of-all-souls/>

Rose Marie Berger: [http://rosemarieberger.com/tag/eucharist]/](http://rosemarieberger.com/tag/eucharist%5d/)