

Saint Thomas and Saint Thomas of the Air Church
All Souls Day
November 3, 2024
rmcneely+

Rest eternal grant them O Lord,
And let light perpetual shine upon them.

We gather today in memory of our Dear Departed.

In times past, this was a day to visit their gravesites,
And place flowers.
Perhaps leave behind a tear,
And to offer a prayer
In thanksgiving for their lives,
their love,
And in intercession for their deaths.

Some place a lighted candle in a window
As sign that they are missed.

For some of us it is comfort
For some it is grieving.

Today it is all of those things.

In a moment as your representatives,
We will say the names of those who have gone home to God.
Not in any order
But in love and reverence.
We dedicate the Mass to them today.

We pray for them for a number of reasons
As a solemn remembrance
A token of our love,
Our gratitude
As an intercession
That the Gates of Heaven may be open to them.
For their eternal rest and peace.

We pray as a body today
The Body of Christ, His Church.
Don't you find that when we assemble as a Church
As the Body of Christ
That the hurt of their loss is diminished somewhat?
There must be something in our nature,
In which we draw comfort from each other
Even though all of us are hurting.

Our liturgy is remarkable in a number of ways.
One of them is its response to human need:

Every week the Liturgy pauses to reflect upon our dead.
We conclude the Prayer for the whole state of Christ's
Church
With a prayer beseeching God
to grant them continual growth in His love and service.
There is a pause filled with our silent remembrance.

Near the end of the Consecration
We pray for those who have gone before us
With the mark of faith
And who rest in the sleep of peace

Whenever the Mass is celebrated
The doctrine of the Communion of Saints is evoked.

As you receive the Body and Blood of Christ
Here in this sanctuary
You are united with,
And joined by the Communion of Saints.
All the people for whom we pray today.
Next to you
At your shoulder.
Right here.

All of this is a tacit inference that, in a sense,
They remain with us.
Their love does not leave with them.
It remains with you
Until that glorious day when we are re-united in paradise.

Until that day we pray:

Rest eternal grant them O Lord,
And let light perpetual shine upon them.

