

A Letter from the Governing Board of Pastors

Father McCreedy, Saint Paul Parish

Dear Holy Rosary School Family,

“Greetings to all” as we begin this beautiful month of November. The color and sights of autumn are so refreshing... and so are the spiritual thoughts aroused in our minds by Holy Mother, the Church.

The month starts-off with All Saints Day, the joyful and hopeful commemoration of the resurrection of our loved ones, our brothers and sisters who have gone before us in faith. Recalled all year long, the most noted saints in heaven are celebrated on their feast days. But, on All Saints Day we give praise and thanks to God for the whole throng of the redeemed. It is the feast day of our mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, family members and friends. A time to praise God for his goodness and mercy, this feast reminds us that we too shall follow and live forever. Such beautiful thoughts carry us into the rest of the month.

In addition to being the month of the Saints, November is also the month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory. They are called holy because they are our future saints. The faithful are called to offer special prayers for the faithful detained in Purgatory. They shall rise. Unselfishly, we pray for them that their time may be hastened. Scripture has it that “It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead” (Second Book of Maccabees). In many of our parishes, the names of deceased loved ones written on All Souls envelopes are placed in the sanctuary or on the altar, to be remembered in every Mass said there this month. Other parishes invite the faithful to write the names of the deceased in a special book in the sanctuary, where likewise they are recalled to all the Masses. These pious practices should remind us to pray for the Holy Souls all year long.

As parents, guardians, and teachers this pious practice of praying for the souls in Purgatory should be lovingly trans-mitted to our children. This is “our Faith.” I had a beautiful Sister in school who taught our class that if we got a soul out of Purgatory by our prayers, we’d always have a good friend in heaven, who, in gratitude, would always pray for us. I’ve always loved this thought... so, I pray a lot for the Holy Souls! Let’s share these comforting thoughts with our children.

A little-known occurrence during the month of November is worth recalling here. Did you know that Our Lady gave us the Miraculous Medal on November 27, 1830? It was originally called the medal of the Immaculate Conception because of the inscription around it: “O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.” So many miracles and conversions were attributed to it that it started to be called the Miraculous Medal. Like our recollection of the Saints and Holy Souls, the pious practice of wearing a Miraculous Medal is another devotion that we as Catholic parents and teachers should encourage in our children. A large percentage of Catholic people devoutly wear Our Lady’s medal as a sign of consecration to her and imploring her motherly intercession to keep us free from sin.

Finally, who can think of November without thinking of Thanksgiving? There is never a time when there isn’t something for which to be thankful. Even in the most trying times, we should be grateful for God’s presence in our midst. Without Him things could always be worse and usually are. The highest manifestation of gratitude to God is our Mass and Holy Eucharist, because Jesus Himself said “Do this in memory of Me.” If you ask Him what He wants in thanksgiving, listen to Him say simply “Do THIS in memory of Me.” What a joy and hope for future generations to share this thought with our children.

Wishing all a blessed month,

Father McCreedy