

November 1, 2022

November 2 is **All Souls Day**...a day for remembering and praying for all who have died, especially those awaiting a **final purification in purgatory** before entering heaven. The Catholic Church dedicates November to this spiritual; work of mercy—**praying for the dead**.



This is a **difficult** subject to write about because there are so many different beliefs about what happens to us after we die. But for some reason, I feel the **Spirit** is calling me to write a little about it.

Purgatory. One definition of **purgatory** is: it is an **intermediate** state, after physical death, for making **atonement** for our sins. It is a state where **those who die in a state of grace are made ready for heaven**. (Personally, I am grateful for such a place).

The **souls in purgatory** are sometimes referred to as the “**Poor Souls in Purgatory**” because they **cannot** merit their **own** release or lessening of their sufferings but **depend** on the prayers and good works of the **faithful on earth**. That’s us!

After death, even though separated from our earthly body, most Catholics and other Christians believe that we continue a **personal existence after death**. Although death is the **end** of our physical lives, most **believers** see this as a **change** rather than a complete ending. Following death, God will judge us, and that we will either go to heaven, hell or purgatory. Those who believe in **purgatory** pray for those who have died so that they will **soon** go to heaven to be with God.

In some ways, praying for the Holy Souls is a fulfillment of the **Golden Rule** given to us by Christ—to do unto others as you would have them do unto you. When I die, I hope people will **pray for me** and not **presume** I am in heaven.

The Church believes that:

- Many innocent persons who suffer from **disease, poverty, or persecution** are living their **purgatory now**, and when they die, they probably will go straight to heaven.
- People who live an exceptionally good and holy life will probably go straight to heaven.

“**Eternal rest, grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.**”