HOMILY SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS YEAR A

REJOICE AND BE GLAD, FOR YOUR REWARD IS GREAT IN HEAVEN

My dear brothers and sisters…. When we hear the word **Saint,** almost always the first thing that comes to mind is… **Perfection**…

A life without mistakes…

Without doubts…

Without ever falling…

And so, we think… **That isn't for me!**

I have bills to pay…

I have a strong personality…

I'm a sinner…

Saints are something different!

However, today the Church doesn't show us just a few perfect people… She shows us a crowd…

Huge, too many to count… From many places in the world, with different languages…

And the first thing we must know about them is this… They don't come from an easy life… **They come from hard times**…

And yet, they came to God with a clean heart… Not because they never failed, but because they let themselves be made clean by the love of Christ… **That difference changes everything!**

Saints aren't the ones who never fell… **They're the ones who let themselves be lifted up**…

That's why holiness doesn't begin with what we do for God… **It begins with what God does for us**…

It's not an exam you pass… **It's a love you answer**… And Jesus shows us what that answer looks like…

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Look at who he calls blessed:

The poor…

Those who cry…

Those who work for peace…

Those who are persecuted…

Not one of them is **a winner**… No one with **power**, no one with **applause**…

That's why Pope Francis said the Beatitudes are like a Christian's identity card… ***Our ID!*** It says right there who we are…

And for two thousand years the Church has been showing that face, **with a variety that leaves us speechless**…

There are saints **who were popes**… and others who were doormen…

There are martyrs **who gave their blood**… and mothers who gave their sleepless nights…

There are scholars **who filled libraries**… and people who could barely read…

There are young people **who died young**… and elders who never stopped smiling…

There are those **who changed the world**… and

Those **who only changed their homes**, their family…

All different… With the same secret… **They took Jesus seriously… They followed Him for real**… holding nothing back… and, in each of them, **His love and his mercy became visible**…

Continuing a little with the thought of Pope Francis… There is a phrase of his that I like very much… **The middle class of holiness**… Ordinary people…

Parents who raise their children with great love…

People who work hard to provide for their home…

The sick…

Sisters, who pray with all their heart every day for people they don't know, but who need that prayer so much…

People who, without knowing it, **reflect God's presence**…

People who will never be in a book, **but who are written in the heart of God**…

Let me tell you something personal…
In this year as associate pastor here, at St. Francis Xavier, I have celebrated 42 funerals… And listening to the families, preparing each homily… I have seen something…
A reflection of holiness…
Of nobility…
Of mercy…
Normal people… They didn't change the world… but they changed their world!
Some of you were there; you know what I'm talking about…

That's why, today and tomorrow, when we pray for our departed, we celebrate the same family… Today, those who have already arrived… Tomorrow, those who are still on the way… among them, those we said goodbye to here, as one family…

So, Father, **what do we do with all this?**

My dear brothers and sisters, this week, let's let the Beatitudes touch us, and let's try to live them in something very concrete, something real…

Gentleness, in that argument where we want to be right…

Mercy, with someone who let us down…

Peace, in a family that is divided…

Just one… **Without trying to be heroes**…

But let's let the Beatitudes touch us! Let's get excited about the idea that yes, it's possible, **that we build the road to holiness here and now**…

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My dear friends… holiness isn't a privilege for a few… **It's a call for everyone! And it's: possible, close, and deeply human**…

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, published by Saint John Paul II, says it clearly…

> *All of us Christians, in any state or condition of life, are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of love. (cf. CCC 2013)*

Notice… not the perfection of never failing… **But the perfection of love!**

Let's leave here today, knowing that our life, with its burdens and its mistakes, can also be a road to holiness…

So that someone looks at us and, instead of a perfect life, **sees the face of God**… because holiness is much more than that…

May our way of living make the face of God visible, **here and now!**

Through the intercession of All the Saints, may God bless you all.

Fr. Moices Rafael C.