The Solemnity of All Saints - November 1st, 2026 – Year A – Msgr. Peter Quang Nguyen

First Reading: **Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14:** An angel seals the servants of God before any destruction occurs. A multitude from all nations, wearing white robes, stand before God and the Lamb, having survived great distress.

Responsorial Psalm: **Psalm 24:** The Earth belongs to the Lord. Only those with clean hearts and hands can stand in God's presence. They will receive blessings and are the ones truly seeking God.

Second Reading: **1 John 3:1-3:** The Father's love makes us his children. The world may not recognize us because it didn't recognize Him. Our future form is unknown, but we'll resemble God and should strive for purity.

Gospel: **Matthew 5:1-12a:** Jesus gives a sermon known as the Beatitudes, outlining who is blessed in the eyes of God. He says the poor in spirit, mourners, meek, those hungry for righteousness, merciful, pure-hearted, peacemakers, and persecuted are blessed. Each group is promised a specific reward, like inheriting the earth or seeing God.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Today, Novber 1st, 2026, on the historic milestone of All Saints Parish's 75th Anniversary, I send my respectful greetings, communion, and deepest joy to the entire community of God's people. For over 12 years, I have been deeply honored and moved to accompany and share in the pastoral ministry with the priests, religious, and all of you under this common home. These past years have been a journey of service and a series of days filled with great blessings from God through everyone's love and support.

Looking back on this 75-year journey of grace, my greatest wish is that we all join in a single prayer of thanksgiving to God. Let us unite our hearts in gratitude for the countless blessings He has poured out upon our Parish through the powerful intercession of our Patron Saints.

Facing this meaningful milestone, I kindly ask that we renew All Saints Parish together—so that this place truly becomes "a house of prayer for all people," a sacred space of welcome, sharing, and shining love. Let us continue to preserve the past, live in the fullness of God's love for all, and prepare our future to worship and serve the Lord with All Saints' intercessions and blessings.

Let us cherish the 75 years of grace from the past as a solid foundation to build the future. More than ever, let us join hands, hearts, and minds to fully live every present moment in the vast love of God and the binding of charity of sisters and brothers of All Saints in the communion with the Holy Mother Church.

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Every year, as the Solemnity of All Saints approaches, I am reminded of the words of Saint Augustine: "If this person or that person could become a saint, why can't I?" Indeed, the saints are not strangers; they are all those who—whether explicitly or implicitly—have embraced the salvation offered by Jesus Christ, having washed their robes in the Blood of the Lamb by participating in the mystery of the Cross and the Passion of Jesus Christ. This includes everyone from the Blessed Virgin Mary to the countless saints from every walk of life, every race, and every language—a multitude such as the one Saint John beheld in his vision, represented by the symbolic number of one hundred and forty-four thousand (cf. Revelation 7:9).

Today, the Church honors all the saints. While some have been formally canonized to serve as examples for us, the Church also recognizes that there are many others who lived faithfully according to the Gospel and served their neighbors. Thus, on the Solemnity of All Saints, Christians celebrate all the saints—both those who are known to us and those who remain unknown. They are our forebears, including our own grandparents, parents, siblings, and relatives who have gone before us. These saints lived human lives just as we do, in every conceivable state, circumstance, and social position—from rulers to slaves, from royalty to the poorest peasants, from business owners to laborers. From the Pope to the laity, from religious to those living in the married state, from virgins to widows—all have attained holiness within the very circumstances of their own lives and vocations. They transformed the ordinary into the extraordinary, sanctifying their daily existence into a life akin to that of the angels, by living out the Beatitudes—often called the "Charter of the Kingdom of Heaven"—which Jesus teaches in today's Gospel.

The Eight Beatitudes reveal that the path to holiness is diverse and rich. Each Beatitude offers a way to become more like Jesus and serves as a means to attain sanctity. While these Beatitudes may seem at odds with conventional worldly wisdom, they represent a paradox—one that is, in fact, perfectly logical. It means that while the world pursues things of only temporary value, those who follow Christ dare to swim against the tide, seeking eternal values even amidst the realities of this earthly life.

Blessed are the poor in spirit: those who do not obsess over material possessions for the sake of pleasure—a pursuit often driven by greed and cunning, which can blind one to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are the meek: in an age where evil is rampant, morality is in decline, and human life is taken without a second thought, those who follow Christ choose to remain humble and gentle.

Blessed are those who mourn: those who know how to unite their own sufferings with the suffering of Christ and offer them entirely to Him.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness: holiness is a lifelong struggle, a fervent desire, and a resolute will. It requires more than just a passing dream; it demands an intense longing—a desire that compels one toward action and persists until the goal is reached.

Blessed are the merciful: those who know how to rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep, and empathize with the pain of others—rather than focusing solely on accumulating for themselves. Instead of hoarding for themselves, followers of Christ know how to give and share with one another.

Blessed are those with pure hearts: In a world declining in morality and self-indulgence, those who follow Christ must know how to live with restraint, moderation, and purity.

Blessed are those who build peace: They avoid quarreling and hatred and bring peace to one another.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake: Because of their faith and love for God, they dare to bear witness in all circumstances, even if sometimes they suffer loss for the sake of their religious reputation.

Thus, although it may seem like living against the grain and going against the current, if we practice it with a faith-based perspective, we will find true effectiveness in life. The content of the Beatitudes directs us towards God and our neighbor, not just selfishly for ourselves. By living for God and for others, we experience true and genuine spiritual happiness. Jesus' call has become an ideal to strive for for countless believers. They have overcome hardships and difficulties to live a pure life amidst the mire of sin. Indeed, *"if this person or that*

person can become holy, then I too can become holy" when I know how to practice the Gospel teachings through the Beatitudes that the Lord teaches today.

Lord Jesus, grant that we may always be aware that our true and eternal homeland is in heaven, so that while living in this temporary world, we may always look towards our glorious heavenly home, and live fully the eight Beatitudes that You have taught us today without fear of hardship or suffering. Amen.