

Fr. Martin's Reflection – November 5, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are very aware of Lent being a period for fasting and prayer. November is also a time of prayer, especially for the holy souls and departed loved ones. It is a time for us to look back on our lives and see the sacrifices others have made so we could have a better life, a life filled with opportunities, opportunities made possible by the love and sacrifices of others.

We can readily name our parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and family members, but can we go beyond that? What about priests and religious in our lives? Was there a teacher, a coach, a youth leader that inspired you in your life? When was the last time we stopped and thought of them or even prayed for them? Have I visited their resting place and prayed a prayer? Let us take time this November to pray for all our departed loved ones, parents, grandparents, family, priests, religious, and all who were a positive influence in our lives.

Prayer for our Deceased Loved Ones

Dear God, with faith and hope I pray for the eternal welfare and well-being of my deceased loved ones, especially ... **(here mention names)**. Raise them up to the fullness of new life and bring them to the company and perfection of Your Saints, to enjoy everlasting rest and peace in Your presence. May Christ, the Good Shepherd, bring my beloved deceased safely home to You, and may they be happily reunited with family, relatives and friends who have gone before them into the Heavenly paradise. Grant comfort, strength, and consolation to all who grieve and mourn as we await our eternal reward, to be home again with You and those we have loved in this life, and into the life to come. Amen.

Prayers for Peace

The realization of how cruel we human beings can be has been brought home to us over the last number of weeks with what has been happening in Israel and Palestine. Even though we have witnessed this cruelty with what Russia has inflicted on Ukraine, when it involves the Holy Land, the land of Jesus, it seems closer to home, dearer to our hearts. Let us not pray that God will end these wars for believe me, God would end these wars in a second if they were God's wars. These wars are human wars, conflicts begun by human decisions (freewill), so let our prayer be that the love of God may find room in the hearts of those in a position of power and influence, that they will work to bring about peace that leads to reconciliation, and unity among God's people.

Prayer of St John XXIII

Lord Jesus Christ, who are called the Prince of Peace, who are yourself our peace and reconciliation, who so often said, "Peace to you," grant us peace. Make all men and women witnesses of truth, justice, and brotherly and sisterly love. Banish from their hearts whatever might endanger peace. Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace. May all peoples of the earth become as brothers and sisters. May longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always over us all. Amen

Have a blessed and peaceful week.

Fr. Martin