

Thirty-Second Sunday November Ordinary time "C" ~ November 6, 2022 -Annual Catholic Appeal 4

Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14; Psalm 16: 1, 5-6, 8, 15; 2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5; Luke 20:27, 34-38

Hymn at Presentation of the Gifts: ALL SHALL BE WELL by Barbara Bridge, Published by OCP

Homily ~ Father Ed Hislop

Look around. We are surrounded by the communion of loved ones; We are walking in the footsteps of those who have gone before us!

They are powerful and humbling images; reminders: stark and beautiful; sad and joyful. These images cannot help but move and touch us; creating a longing (or perhaps a sadness) for who we once were and a reminder of where and from whom we have come!

They seem to speak, all of our ancestors with them: "Be still," they say. "Watch and listen, you and we are the result of the love of thousands."

They can evoke in us a sense of the truth that we are all connected in both life and death, faith and love, strength, and weakness. Those ties of love and friendship, of family, stranger, and parish which knit us as one throughout our lives cannot be unraveled, even in death! They can inspire us with the hope God gives of being raised up in him, even as we remember the struggle of life and death they and we have and do endure, maybe unlike the seven brothers in the Book of Maccabees, but a struggle soothed with courage and faith, like theirs, in the truth that death is the gateway to eternal life.

Those who surround us in these images, and in spirit and truth around this holy table—this altar of birth, life, death, and resurrection—are the source of our life, love, and faith. They have given and we have received.

They lived, struggled, loved, believed, gave, received, and endured. To us they hand on that love, faith, generosity, and endurance!

Many of them have gathered with us in this life around the Table of the Lord, and still do in a whole new way! When we are here, they are here!

Some of them may have challenged our living, our ways, our faith. Perhaps their loving, believing and living was not what it could have been; or maybe we did not love them as we could have or should have. Perhaps they left us, or we might have left them, without an embrace of forgiveness or a word of shared love.

But here, with us they are, at this table of memory, reconciliation, forgiveness, and compassion.

They surround us not to remind us of what was or might have been, but to encourage and direct us to what is yet to be.

To remind us to ask the right questions and to remember the words of Jesus, who is alive: *"they can no longer die, for they are like angels; and they are the children of God because they are the ones who will rise."*

These who surround us invite us, as does Jesus, to look forward, to see, not with the eyes of yesterday—with the eyes of what once was—but with the vision of resurrection, new life, and a whole new way of living, believing and loving.

Their voice in harmonious chorus resounds from this place to the whole universe, they say and sing to us: *"God is not a God of the dead, but of the living, for to God all are alive."* "Be about the present moment", they say, "and about what is yet to be." "LOOK FORWARD, NOT BACKWARD. Ask the right questions. Long for life, faith, and love. Be filled with hope, be encouraged, and strengthened in every good deed and in every generous gift.

"If there is a struggle, do not run from it or deny it, rather, engage in it and endure it—as those brothers you met today and as some of us did..., trusting that the *"Lord will direct your hearts to the love of God and the endurance of Christ!"* "Let us remind you, by our new life with God, that you are not alone, "Christ is alive with you, loves you and

gives you *“everlasting encouragement and good hope.”*

“For you, now and tomorrow, be encouraged; find strength in every good deed, in the words you speak, and the life you share. As many of us once did, find your nourishment for living at the Table of Christ.”

It is true....we are walking in the footsteps of those who have gone before us. Surrounded by our

ancestors and thousands before them, who have loved and given and now who live in God.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace!

JESUS IS ALIVE...and so are they. *“All shall be well, and all manner of thing, shall be well.”*

