

Reflection and Prayertime: All Saints Day Remembrances and Saintliness

November 2, 2020

In the Bible in the book of Hebrews all the verses in Chapter 11 and Chapter 12: 1-2 describe faith in action.

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.

By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: He could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death. By faith, Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions concerning the burial of his bones.

By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger, he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days. By faith the

prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the Prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again.

There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated – the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Yesterday was the Day of the Dead (in Spanish, Dia de los Muertos), the Mexican holiday associated with the Catholic celebrations of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, where we pray for and remember friends and family members who have died in celebration rather than mourning.

As I prepared this and was thinking about my ancestors and my husband's ancestors, I was struck by the rich history and what is known about his family and how little I know about mine. My husband Dan's family were

Huegenots in Montauban, France, and they were forced to leave in 1687 during bloody persecution against dissenters by the Roman Catholics. The law against the dissenters was very rigid at that time. Whoever was known to be one, or even suspected, if he would not swear to visit the priest, his life and estate were forfeited and he was put to the most shameful and cruel torture and death. And they would not let anyone move from the kingdom. The story goes that the Catholics came to the house and told the wife of Antoine "Anthony" Trabue she could either convert or be killed and she told them she couldn't convert without her husband's permission and to come back the next day and she'd convert. She and Anthony escaped that night on a boat on the River Tarn, which my family got to see in 2016 in a family trip to Montauban. No Trabue historical markers were posted by the riverside, however.

We did begin learn about Anthony Trabue's grandson, Daniel Trabue, when we were driving through Columbia, Ky, one time and passed a historical marker that had Daniel Trabue on it. I remember saying, "hey I may be crazy but I think that historical marker had your name on it." Dan knew that his great great great uncle Daniel founded Columbia Ky, was a contemporary of Daniel Boone, and wrote a journal and published it, producing a book about his travels in Kentucky called Westward into Kentucky: The Narrative of Daniel Trabue.

Then also another relative, Colonel Isaac Trabue, was the founding father Trabue, Florida, which is now renamed Punta Gorda. We were talking of visiting there on a vacation so we could visit Trabue Park and eat at Trabue restaurant, now unfortunately closed. In 2018 the city passed a motion to erect two statues of Isaac Trabue but not sure if that happened or not.

So lots of saints on my husband's side but not much known on my family side. I do know that my father's parents ran a tourist camp called Great Oaks in the tiny town of Arlington KY where I was born (population 500, then and 300 now) with 4 cabins, huge oak trees, and a tennis court and it was the heartbeat of that tiny town where people gathered for picnics and

talking. It was for sale in 1948 and listed as being located on "Concrete Highway No. 51" so you get the picture.

I remember my dad telling me that when the camp had vacancies as it frequently did his parents would allow what he called "gypsies" to stay on the property for free because his parents were big-hearted and compassionate and knew that people struggled financially and sometimes just needed a place to be to get from one place to another. I think it made my dad big-hearted as well. I don't know if they were actually gypsies or if that was just his childhood spin on it, but I do know they were cared for and fed.

On this day following All Saints Day, what saints are you celebrating and honoring in your heart today? Who has graced your life and your path? Take time to remember them and how their lives graces yours still.

As we celebrate them all today, let me share a Prayer of Passing for all our Beloved Saints:

Prayer of Passing

By Anara Solray

Know that everything you do and everything you have done has been a contribution to the Whole. Bless-ed be who you are.

When the time comes for your Eternal Spirit to leave this Earthly body...

Your wings will unfurl, the breath of the wind will uplift you, and you will be born anew without effort.

For where you are going, there is no pain, no fear, no heartache. There is only love.

You will breathe one last breath while your spirit occupies your physical body, and with the next in-breath you will breathe a breath of great Light.

You will feel more love than you have known for a long, long time. For you are
going Home.

In the turning of the seasons, the love within your heart, the love of your being
has expanded into fullness and now settles in peace to rest.

In the dawn of ages, your spirit has celebrated your essence which, once again, is
to be made new.

In the flowing of the rivers, know beyond a doubt of doubts the truth that your
spirit is truly one with the Divine Whole.

One Heart...One Mind...One Spirit...One.

You are the blessing. You are the peace. You are the love.

You are the Light within the holiness.

You are the Flight within the freedom.

You are the Essence in the center of the blossom.

This is who you are, and much, much more.

Much, much More