



Daily Reflections

November 1, 2017

Scripture

Revelation 7: 2-4, 7-9

I, John, saw another angel come up from the East, holding the seal of the living God.

He cried out in a loud voice to the four angels who were given power to damage the land and the sea, "Do not damage the land or the sea or the trees until we put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God."

I heard the number of those who had been marked with the seal, one hundred and forty-four thousand marked from every tribe of the children of Israel.

After this I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue.

They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands.

They cried out in a loud voice:

"Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne, and from the Lamb."

All the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures.

They prostrated themselves before the throne, worshiped God, and exclaimed:

"Amen. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, power, and might

be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Then one of the elders spoke up and said to me,

"Who are these wearing white robes, and where did they come from?"

I said to him, "My lord, you are the one who knows."

He said to me,

"These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress;

they have washed their robes

and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb."

Our Scripture Reflection

Today we begin the month of November and we do so by celebrating the feast of All Saints. On this day we recall the men and women throughout history who lived the Christian faith at an heroic level. Some were martyrs, some were good shepherds to their flocks and some were amazing pray-ers and preachers. All had the kind of faith that could move mountains. How did they get this way? Our Scripture from the Book of Revelation tells us: "They have washed their robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb." In other words, they cleansed themselves of the sinful influences of the world and united themselves completely to the Lamb, Jesus Christ. Some did so by the very shedding of their blood which they saw as the way to unite their personal sacrifice with the sacrifice which Jesus had endured on Calvary. The message for us? We here below are called to walk each day in the footsteps of the Lamb of God so that when our earthly journey is complete we might share in His victory.

Food for your Journey

Yale surgeon and bioethicist Dr. Sherwin Nuland, in his best-selling book, *The Wisdom of the Body*, describes the experience of saving the life of a 42-year-old woman who had suffered an aneurysm of the splenic artery.

"Something within me wanted to sing and shout, to dance carefree and make love, to acclaim my triumph to the heavens and the ages -- a woman's life had been saved, and I would always remember the wonder of this night."

The Bible says that the angels cheer the touchdown in heaven of one sinner who repents.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Help me to follow the example of the great Saints of old so that one day I may share eternal life with You. Amen.