

ALL SAINTS DAY- BEATITUDES

What is the good life that God intends for us? And how is it related to the ultimate end of life? Is it not our desire for true happiness? Jesus is addressing these questions in his sermon on the mount: the beatitudes=**magna carta** of Jesus preaching.

Beatitude literally means “happiness”. 16th C. Pope: “*The beatitude is the interior biography of Jesus*”. In other words, they describe his life, and mark out for us, the path of discipleship, in following him completely. Surprisingly, the path that is stretched out in Beatitudes, is not merely theoretical one, but one that resonates with our lived experience, the deepest desires of our heart.

The heart of Jesus message is that we can live a happy life! The call to holiness, to be saints who joyfully follow God’s will can be found in these eight beatitudes.

Why the beatitudes are central to Jesus teaching? Bcs, it responds to the natural desire for happiness that God has placed in every human heart. It also confronts us with decisive choices concerning the life to follow on earth and the use we make of God’s grace for us.

Is it not true for each of us, that the moment in our life that we are most proud of, or found most fulfilling – are precisely the moments when we were able to assist another person in need or crisis, or in doing works of mercy, peace and justice; or to sacrifice ourselves in some way for the sake of the love of God?

Pope Benedict XVI said: “we look at the shining examples of saints, and we re-awaken within us, the deepest desire we have, and the saints help us to find that out, and walk the way”.

Dear Sis & Bro, the beatitudes are the path to Happiness and holiness, because they are path to following Jesus, who is the way-the truth-the life.

Today's Solemnity celebration reminds us that there are countless saints, many of those are unknown to us, who have walked this path of beatitudes, and achieved the goal of blessedness. They now intercede for us, showing us the way ahead, they successfully walked, and stay as our examples and models in holiness.

St. Bernard: "The saints have no need of our veneration"; but we need to venerate them.

As you learn more about the lives of a saints, you may be inspired by their holiness, and can choose your favorite, and see how God want you to grow in holiness: bcs your saint inspire a desire for greater holiness. God is calling you to occupy a unique place of your own in this company of saints.

Therefore, let us try to walk the road, the challenging, but the only road, the road of Jesus Christ, to authentic happiness in this life and the next.