

ALL SAINTS DAY NOVEMBER 1, 2020

Rev. Irma Guerra

*Blessed be the poor of the earth, because yours is the Kingdom of God, rejoice and be filled with joy because wonders await you in heaven, rejoice and be filled with joy, blessed will you be.*

Why are the Beatitudes read on the Feast of All Saints? Because they show us the heart of holiness. They express the values to which Christians are called upon being baptized. When we find a person, whose life expresses those values, we will recognize a holy person.

The words of Christ recorded in Matthew chapters 5, 6, and 7 are often called the Sermon on the Mount. The reason for this is that Jesus "went up on the mountain" (Matthew 5: 1), to give his message. Apparently, He did this to make it easier for His audience to hear what He was going to say. An abbreviated account of Christ's sermon on the mount is found in Luke 6: 20-49. Although there are slight differences between the two accounts in the gospels, these passages give us an excellent summary of the themes that Jesus covered in his ministry here on earth.

Where does my prayer take me today? Who am I in this passage? Where am I blessed?

The Irish poet, philosopher and author, John O'Donohue, described a blessing as a "circle of light drawn around a person to protect, heal and strengthen them... when a blessing is invoked a window opens for eternity."

*REFLECTION:* Are there times in our lives when we can't understand why this is happening to us, doesn't God love me? Why am I in this situation? And we think that we are the only ones who suffer. Perhaps we doubt Christ, and perhaps our faith runs out, in those moments is when we must demonstrate the strength of God in us, moments in which we must trust in his promise, and if it is necessary to doubt to reinforce our faith, then let's do it, that when we doubt God touches us deeper, and shows us the way forward.

When I was sick, there were moments when I felt that my body was breaking, because every bit hurt me, I was very, very weak, if I spoke I got tired, if I walked a little I got more tired, my head hurt, I was dizzy, I had nausea, a lot of temperature and a lot of stomach pain, but I never stopped doubting that God was there with me, so with my whole body sore all you want to do is stay in bed, you don't want

to know how to move a finger at all because everything hurts, much less kneel down and pray.

You do not tolerate watching television, or making calls, or even hearing someone's voice, much less standing up and trying to do something, you do not want to eat, you do not want to see the light, it could simply call this moment to be in darkness, or just think that God has abandoned me.

But here is "The Beatitudes" in those moments you know that the beatitude that Jesus preaches in "The Sermon on the Mount" is for you, because it says that those who suffer will be comforted, so, in the midst of that great pain I got up, like I was able to kneel, my body was shaking, and I raised my arms to the sky, and I said: "Here I am Lord, I am yours" and keep silence, and that light, that circle of light that John O'Donohue describes came to me and gave me peace, in the middle of so much pain, and I was able to sleep, this was something I did for the next three days, because I was sure that Jesus was protecting me, healing me, strengthening me!

Today that I am in front of you, you can see that this beatitude was for me at the time, and that each of the 9 beatitudes mentioned in the gospel are at a certain moment for you, for me, for each of us: for those of poor spirit, those who suffer, the humble, those who hunger and thirst for justice, the compassionate, those with a clean heart, those who work for peace, those persecuted for doing what is right, yes you, rejoice, be happy, because you will receive a great prize in heaven! Because you will see God....

That is why the beatitudes are not just promises to wait, they are a whole program of life to reform this earth. If for one day all men were poor in spirit, pure in heart, we could bring heaven to earth. It is true that the Lord allows evil in our societies, disorientation and injustices, but we cannot forget that, if he allows it, it is because he is sure to obtain a greater good from all of it.

Rejoice and be filled with joy because wonders await you in heaven. Amen