

LIVING FRATERNITY

Theme: The Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed ...

In this month of November 2024, we offer for your reflection texts extracted from two homilies from our Pope Francis, one from November 2nd, 2021, and another from November 2nd 2023.

Good reflection and sharing.

Recall: Our monthly meeting should favour an encounter with Christ. A spirit of prayer will ensure a meeting that will promote a good experience for all the members

NOVEMBER 2024 MONTHLY MEETING

Opening of the meeting

After a hymn, a prayer according to the Ritual or another, chosen by the fraternity, the meeting begins.

Introduction

The celebration of a day such as today leads us to two thoughts: remembrance and hope.

Remembrance of those who preceded us, who led their life, who concluded this life; remembrance of the many people who were good to us: in the family, among friends... And also remembrance of those who did not manage to do so much good, but who have been received in God's memory, in God's mercy. It is the mystery of the Lord's great mercy.

And then hope. Today is a day of remembrance in order to look forward, to look at our journey, our path. We walk towards an encounter, with the Lord and with everyone. And we must ask the Lord for this grace of hope: the hope that never lets us down; the hope that is the everyday virtue that carries us forward, that helps us to solve problems and to look for ways out. But always forward, forward. That fruitful hope, that every-day theological virtue, one for any moment: I will call it a theological virtue of "the kitchen", because it is approachable and always comes to our aid. Hope never disappoints we live in this tension between memory and hope

Reflection and sharing:

After the reading of the two preceding paragraphs, share what touches you particularly?
Take the necessary time to allow a good sharing.

Continue the reading.

A writing on the entrance door of a small cemetery which is up North comes to mind: “You who are walking, think about your steps, and of your steps, think about the final step”.

You who are walking. Life is a journey, all of us are on a journey. All of us, if we wish to do something in life, are on a journey. It is not a stroll, nor is it a labyrinth, no, it is a journey. On the way, we pass in front of many historical events, in front of many difficult situations. And also, in front of cemeteries.

The advice of this cemetery is: “You who are passing by, halt your step and think, and of your steps, think about the final step”. We will all have a final step. Some may say to me, “Father, don’t be so mournful, don’t be so tragic”. But it is the truth. The important thing is that that final step finds us on a journey, not strolling around, in the journey of life and not in an endless labyrinth. To be on a journey so that the last step finds us walking. This is the first thought that I would like to say and that comes from my heart.

Reflection and sharing:

Following the reading of the two previous paragraphs, share your thoughts on any part that hold special meaning for you. Take time to allow the members to have a good sharing.

Continue the reading.

The second thought is the graves. These people — good people — who died in the war, they died because they were called to defend their homeland, to defend values, to defend ideals and, many other times, to defend sad and lamentable political situations. And they are the victims, the victims of war, that eats the children of the homeland. And I think of Anzio, of Redipuglia; I think of the Piave River in 1914 — so many were left there —; I think of Normandy beach: forty thousand, in that landing! But it doesn’t matter, they fell...

Reflection and sharing:

Share your ideas on the content of the preceding paragraph. Take time for a good sharing.

I stopped in front of a tomb: “*Inconnu. Mort pour la France 1944*” [Not even a name Died for France 2 1944]. Not even the name. In God’s heart is the name of all of us, but this is the tragedy of war. I am sure that all these who went in good will, called by their homeland to defend it, are with the Lord. But do we, who are on the journey, fight sufficiently so that there will be no wars? So that the economies of countries are not fortified by the arms industry? Today the sermon should invite a look at the tombs: “Died for France”; some have names, some others do not. But these graves are a message of peace: “Stop, brothers and sisters, stop! Stop, arms manufacturers, stop!”.

I leave you with these two thoughts. “You who are walking, think about your steps, and of your steps, think about the final step”: may they be in peace, in peace of the heart, all in peace. The second thought: these graves that speak, cry out, they cry out of themselves, they cry out, “Peace!”.

Reflection and sharing:

Share your ideas on the content of the preceding paragraph. Take time for a good sharing.

Message from Pope Francis

May the Lord help us to sow and keep these two thoughts in our hearts.

Biblical Reflection

Read the texts of the Sunday or of the day following your meeting

Share your thoughts on this gospel, using the following questions:

1. Take a moment of reflection, underline the inspiring words or phrases ...
2. Share your reflections on the evangelical text chosen ...

Link with the Rule and the General Constitutions

Rule, Article 19

Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon.

Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others.

Since they are immersed in the resurrection of Christ, which gives true meaning to Sister Death, let them serenely tend toward the ultimate encounter with the Father.

General Constitutions, Article 27

1. The brothers and sisters, who are getting older, should learn to accept illness and increasing difficulties and to give a deeper sense to their life. This should be undertaken with increasing detachment as they set out for the promised Land. They should be firmly convinced that the community of those who believe in Christ and who love one another in him will go forward into eternal life as the “communion of saints”.

Life Objective

During this month of November, let us remember our brothers and sisters who have preceded us and say a prayer for our members who are not present at our meeting ...

Events and Information from the Church and the Order

Remind the members of regional and local activities.

End of the meeting: (song or prayer chosen by the fraternity)

At Home

It is good not to hide your head in the sand by refusing to think about our death. On the contrary. We must think very seriously about it, while we are still healthy, to prepare our will, to put in writing our wishes as to the disposition of our possessions and to the power of attorney concerning our health needs and the sort of end of life we desire. It is important.

Share this thought: Have you accomplished any of the suggested tasks noted in the preceding paragraph. Do you speak on these tasks during the monthly meeting. It is certainly something to think about.