



All Souls' Remembrances

Please send the names of your departed loved ones to be included in prayer at Masses celebrated by Heart of the Nation's chaplains on All Souls' Day (Nov. 2). Use the enclosed Spiritual Bouquet request slip, or send an e-mail with the names for remembrance to FrMark@HeartoftheNation.org.

Prayer Resources From Heart of the Nation

Order a free subscription to the **large-print Prayer & Worship Guide** to follow along during Mass and use in prayer throughout each week. Send the recipient's name and postal address to Heart of the Nation, P.O. Box 14428, Milwaukee, WI 53214.

To pray the **Rosary** using spiritually restful videos, visit www.HeartoftheNation.org/prayer-resources/holy-rosary.

A Good Vintage

When a seminarian graduated and began his priestly ministry, he left behind some homemade wine. Students who later found it had tasted some of the earlier winemaking efforts and deemed the abandoned vintage unworthy of uncorking. As an amateur winemaker myself, I can attest that success takes good fruit, some wine yeast, and patient fermentation. God has chosen us for holiness, provides the grace we need, and patiently waits for faith to transform us.



Fr. Mark Payne
Chaplain

Jesus used the image of a vineyard in a parable that describes a landowner trying to do everything right. He planted vines and put a protective hedge around them. He dug a wine press. A tower provided a place for an overseer. Things went sour anyway when tenant farmers refused to turn over the owner's share of the produce. Later, those tenants would find their blessings taken away and given to others. Self-serving Pharisees trying to hold on to their authority failed to take the message to heart. The story teaches the faithful to serve God by using His blessings well and fruitfully.

Scientifically speaking, grapes cross-pollinate. As a result, the seed from one grape will grow into a different variety altogether because of the cross. The Lord Jesus came, crossing Divinity with humanity. Through His life and death on the Cross, our Savior gave new dignity to humankind.

To perpetuate a choice type of grape, a vineyard owner uses cuttings from a vine, instead of seeds, to start new plants. Attached to the Lord, like branches to a vine, we thrive. On the other hand, the Lord also sends disciples forth. Unlike pruned and discarded branches, we find ourselves replanted. Jesus remains the vine from which we continue to grow. As Church, we celebrate our oneness with the Lord, present for us in a very blessed way through Holy Communion.

Winemakers call crushed grapes the "must." Your gift to Heart of the Nation will serve people experiencing crushing hardships that make Holy Mass on TV or online a must.

Fr. Mark

“I was having a hard time with my faith, and today’s homily was really the words and inspiration I needed.”

~William



“I was looking for an online rosary. I prayed the Joyful Mysteries while watching the video and reading the brief description of each mystery. Thank you for this lovely and uplifting production.”

~Liz



“We enjoy your services, the beautiful music, the pastoral messages, and the nature of your church family.”

~Bob and Mary

Stretching a Penny

Have you ever put a one-cent coin into a machine that flattens it into an oval shape, imprints a new design, and provides a pocket-sized souvenir of the place you visited? Tourists have collected the squashed, elongated coins in various places from Saint Peter’s Square to Disney theme parks.

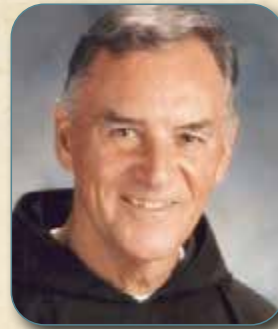


Ancient Romans conquered Judea and worshipped the deceased emperor Julius Caesar as a god. Coins with images of the next two emperors, also called Caesar, bore inscriptions declaring their heritage as sons of the divine.

Along came Jesus, the Son of God. Pharisees sent emissaries to ask the Lord a question intended to either squash His popularity among the Israelites or force Him to oppose the Roman Empire.

Asked if Mosaic Law permitted Israelites to pay a census tax demanded by the Romans, Jesus borrowed a coin. Pointing out Caesar’s image and the inscription, the Lord said to repay to Caesar what belonged to him.

More importantly, they should repay to God what belonged to God. We heed the advice by offering to the Lord the good that we do through His grace.



Fr. Tony Scannell
Chaplain

In principle, Pharisees opposed the tax. Still, any coins they paid under Roman law would seem a small price for the authority allowed to them as keepers of Mosaic Law and hundreds of rules that had emerged.

Today, you might

choose to put a shiny, new penny into a pressing machine to have it made into a souvenir. U.S. pennies now have only a thin layer of copper covering zinc. The souvenir that emerges will have a silvery streak from the zinc, and exposure to air will slowly tarnish the zinc to almost black.

Pharisees wanted people to see them as shining examples of holiness. Jesus exposed their dark streak of hypocrisy.

Even copper will discolor. We see that on greenish pennies. Every sin tarnishes the world to some degree. Still, the Son of God came to impress upon us a new image of hope in heavenly glory.

Going Out to All the World

Baptism serves as a beginning. More than washing away Original sin, the Sacrament of Baptism welcomes new members into the Church and its mission. The theme for World Mission Sunday this year, “Here I am; send me” (Isaiah 6:8) challenges the Church during a worldwide pandemic. In his message for this year’s observance (October 18), Pope Francis invites the faithful to reflect on the need for relationships with God and neighbor.

“Your gift to Heart of the Nation will share your faith and love of the Lord with people nationwide on TV and globally through our Mass online,” explained Fr. Mark Payne, chaplain. “Please send your prayers and a gift to join in our mission if you can. Your generosity will mean the world to people who depend on Heart of the Nation’s ministry to stay connected.”

Mission Prayer

Loving Father,
You sent Your Son
into the world,
Where He walked
on dusty roads and water;
Please grant me the faith
and grace I need
To serve You well
from this moment onward.

Lord Jesus,
You sent Your disciples
to go forth,
Spreading Your message
to people in need;
Please help me to make
the mission mine,
Forgiving and following
where You lead.

Holy Spirit,
You have been sent
to dwell within me,
So that my life
may never be empty;
Please help me to see
renewed purpose—
Each day
as a new opportunity.

Amen.

Shower of Roses

How did it happen that a cloistered, 19th-century nun became the patroness of missionaries? St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus entered a Carmelite convent in Lisieux, France, at age 15. Although drawn to the nuns' missionary work in what became Vietnam, she remained in her homeland until tuberculosis sent her heavenward at age 24. Also known as the Little Flower and St. Thérèse of Lisieux, Catholics celebrate her example of faith on October 1.

Two priests had contacted the convent where she lived to seek prayers before traveling as missionaries. Thérèse did more, corresponding with them and with missionary nuns in her religious order. The conversion of a shaman (tribal spiritual leader) in the Arctic, attributed to her saintly intercession, saved a foundering mission there. Pope Pius XI declared her a patroness of missionary work.

St. Thérèse also holds the title of "Doctor of the Church," given to saints whose writings have furthered understanding of the Catholic faith. Rather than academic treatises, she wrote reflections on her experiences, letters, prayers, and poetry. Her writings, including a book called *Story of a Soul*, focus on love of God, prayer from the heart, and the importance of little things.

After entering religious life, she began signing letters "Thérèse of the Child Jesus." She compared her prayers to those of a child unable to speak to God in style, yet she felt confident that God always understood her. Admittedly one who dozed off while in the chapel with her religious community, she felt embarrassed but grateful that our heavenly Father loves His children, asleep and awake, as even birth parents do. (The Church canonized her parents in 2015.)

Seeing herself as a humble flower, like a violet or daisy, St. Thérèse hoped to do greater things from heaven—to send a "shower of roses" to Earth. Roses have accompanied answers to prayers asking for the intercession of the Little Flower, who is also a patron saint of florists.



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