

Second Hand Preacher

Feast of All Souls

November 2, 2014

Romans 6:3-9

This Sunday is the Feast of All Souls which trumps the Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings are taken from among those recommended for funeral liturgies. This time for the second reading there are two selections from St. Paul's letter to the Romans. I favor the one from chapter six as it is Good News for all the baptized. We are all baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus. Our death is to sin and our redemption is heaven.

This was seen as very good news to the Christian Romans. They were suffering and they did not want their suffering to be in vain. They risked their lives to be baptized and they were sure to be comforted that their baptism didn't end with that original commitment, but that now their entire lives were connected to Christ. I'm sure Paul's letter gave them courage to endure. This letter gave such hope and truth that it was sent out to all Christians of that era and was eventually brought to become part of Sacred Scripture. This passage is powerful indeed.

This passage can hold power for us. Most of us were baptized as infants - meaning someone else made the commitment for us. They were connected to the Church and it was their desire that we get connected as well. This means that from the time we were baptized we were brought into connection with Jesus. It is our choice if we want to live out that commitment. Many of us received the Sacrament of Confirmation which is a formal way we reaffirm our connection. Bottom line - we have to choose Christ each and every day if we want to die and rise with him. The paschal mystery has the power to connect our souls to All Souls.