

24 October 2007

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Shortly we will begin the final month of the liturgical year. It is a month traditionally dedicated to a remembrance of those who have gone before us and are now in the arms of God. Attached you will find reminders of the November feast days, as well as an attractive piece created by **Fr. Richard Vosman** of the Marianist brothers, priests and sisters who have died in the last year. Thank you, Richard.

The first two days of the month of November call us to be mindful of the "saints" we have known. That is why the church names these days the feasts of "All Saints" and "All Souls." Karl Rahner captures the spirit of these feasts well:

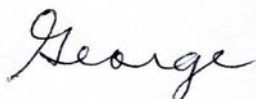
All Saints Day and All Souls Day are the feasts of every saint and every soul who has died and gone home into the eternal love of God. *All* of them -- and therefore not only those already celebrated by name in the Church's feasts throughout the year -- but also the silent, unknown ones who have departed as if they had never existed. There are no legends about them; their lives are recorded neither in poetry nor in history, secular or ecclesiastical. Only one person knows anything about these saints, and that is God. He has inscribed their names in the book of life, which is the heart of his eternal love. [*The Eternal Year*, p. 137]

I urge you throughout this month to pray in a special way for the dead, for the "saints" you and I have known, who have given us a model of fidelity and perseverance.

Toward the end of the month, we celebrate Thanksgiving Day. Gratitude is so much at the heart of our lives, and let us be grateful for the many, many gifts God has bestowed on us individually and as a Marianist Family.

Although there are no special Marianist feast days during the month of November, I have indicated some particular occasions for remembrance in our communities. As we come to the end of this liturgical year and ready ourselves to begin another one, let us pray for one another and for our shared mission with Mary, our Mother!

Affectionately,



George J. Cerniglia, S.M.
Assistant for Religious Life

Please note: This e-mail is being sent to all SMs and FMIs in the U.S.; district superiors and expatriates in the three districts; members of the GA; and representatives of the MLNNA. If someone in your community does not have an e-mail address, please print this out for them.