



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

November 14-15, 2020

SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD



WAR OR PEACE: SHOULD CATHOLICS OBSERVE VETERANS DAY?

“Blessed are the peacemakers.”

These words of Jesus are viewed by some Christians as the definitive argument for pacifism (the total rejection of the use of force) and the definitive evidence that pacifism is inseparable from Christianity.

If peace making is good, the argument goes, how can we justify war? For that matter, if peacemaking is a beatitude, where does soldiering rank? And if soldiering is a lamentable career, how could a Catholic endorse Veteran’s Day—the civic celebration of soldiering in macrocosm?

The Bible & Soldiering

As an answer to these questions, let’s begin by making an observation: nowhere does Scripture condemn soldiering. On the contrary, it

outlines the precepts of proper soldiering. Recounted in Luke 3:14, soldiers asked John the Baptist how they should conduct themselves in their profession:

“And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said to them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.”

The precept against “violence” in this context was the unlawful use of force. It was understood that a lawful use of force was possible and necessary. As Saint Augustine explained this passage:

“For he (John) knew that soldiers, when they use their arms, are not homicides, but the ministers of the law; not the avengers of their own injuries, but the defenders of the public safety. Otherwise he might have answered, ‘Put away your arms, abandon warfare, strike no one, wound no one, destroy no one.’”

“As Saint Augustine points out, John did not command the soldiers to lay down their arms; for that matter, John does not even offer the same counsel as Jesus did to the rich man; He does not say: “If thou seek to be perfect, lay down your arms and come follow Me.”

Why not? Because there is no inherent contradiction between soldiering and following Christ. In fact, there is no contradiction between perfect soldiering

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

A Prayer for Our Veterans

“God of peace, we pray for those who have served our nation and have laid down their lives to protect and defend our freedom. We pray for those who have fought, whose spirits and bodies are scarred by war, whose nights are haunted by memories too painful for the light of day. We pray for those who serve us now, especially for those in harm’s way. Shield them from danger and bring them home. Turn the hearts and minds of our leaders and our enemies to the work of justice and a harvest of peace. Spare the poor, Lord, spare the poor! May the peace you left us, the peace you gave us, be the peace that sustains, the peace that saves us. Christ Jesus, hear us! Lord Jesus, hear our prayer! Amen.”

<https://dioceseofprovidence.org/news/veterans-day>

Fr. Vincent Farhat, Pastor | Rev. Mr. Jean Mattar, Deacon | Joseph Abraham, Sub-deacon

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OFFICE HOURS: The Church office will be open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

and perfect Christianity. Whereas riches presented a spiritual stumbling block to the rich man, soldiering did not seem to present a similar stumbling block for these men to achieve perfection. Though the profession of soldiering has its share of villains (after all, there are those who fight on the wrong side of just wars), the highest levels of virtuous people can be found within soldiering.

The reason for this is that just and perfect soldiering aims not at violence, but at peace.

Peacemakers

As Saint Thomas Aquinas explains: "Those who wage war justly aim at peace, and so they are not opposed to peace, except to the evil peace, which Our Lord 'came not to send upon earth' (Matthew 10:34). Hence Augustine says: 'We do not seek peace in order to be at war, but we go to war that we may have peace.'"

Where do good soldiers fit in within the equation of "Blessed are the peacemakers?"

They are peacemakers.

Not only is there is no contradiction between peacemaking and fighting justly in a just war, but peacemaking might require taking part in a just war. This is the position of the Church, and She could hardly be clearer in Her official pronouncements. For example, the Second Vatican Council stated: "Those too who devote themselves to the military service of their country should regard themselves as the agents of security and freedom of peoples."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "Legitimate defense can be not only a right but a grave duty for one who is responsible for the lives of others." Formally upholding the dignity of soldiering, the Catechism is clear that soldiering is a grave duty that springs from justice and charity. And while not all of us are called to this valorous

profession and to this duty, we have a word for many of those who are.

They are called heroes.

Love for the Heroes

Many thousands of American soldiers have died in the course of promoting and protecting peace. It is sometimes said that they died to "further democracy" or to "protect liberty," but those phrases often fail to properly express and explain the noble motives of the so many American soldiers. They fought for others. They fought and died to protect men, women, and children—laying down their lives for others.

Jesus had a word for that: love.

Thus, love must be our response to them.

At Arlington National Cemetery, there exists the 'Tomb of the Unknowns', or as it is sometimes called: 'The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier'. For the past eighty years, this tomb has been guarded every moment as a tribute to the fallen. It is a wonderful response by America to her troops, but there is a distinct sadness in this tomb—that many of those who fought and died are unremembered by name. But that does not mean that we Catholics cannot pray for them, nor does it mean that we cannot pray for every soldier who has ever served America.

Today, on Veterans Day, let's pray for every American soldier who has died in war. Let our response be that love for others that is shown in praying for others.

Let us pray for them today to guarantee that nowhere does there exist a tomb of the unloved soldier.

<https://www.setonmagazine.com/dad/war-or-peace-should-catholics-observe-veterans-day>

THEME BASKETS RAFFLE DONATIONS

Our Annual Christmas Bazaar Theme Baskets will be available, and the drawing will be held on November 22. These baskets will be seen via livestream as well as on our website. In addition to the theme baskets, we are selling our money raffles which will be drawn on November 22 as well. If you have any questions please see or call Smitty Cabral at 508-961-8599, or Lorraine David at 508-965-8824.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY AT OLOP

Monday, November 16, we will have adult bible study in the rectory basement. This will begin at 6:30 PM. If we have a large number of people attending, we will move to the Church in order to practice social distancing. There will be a sign-up link to follow this week. We ask you to please sign-up as you would for Divine Liturgy. I will send the link to you this week. I hope many of you will be able to join us.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/BibleStudy>

WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

This month of November, the wine and bread offerings are in memory of John, Malvina, and Joseph David requested by their family. May their souls rest in peace.

Anyone who would like to give an offering in memory of a loved one or for a special intention for the month of June 2021, please see Fr. Vincent. The cost for the month is \$75.00, which covers the cost of the communion bread and wine. Thank you and God bless.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, October 14, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of St. Philip the Apostle) liturgy is being offered for the soul of Nicholas Haddad requested by Bob and JoAnne Mansour. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, November 15, @ 10:30 PM, (Announcement to Zechariah) liturgy is being offered for the soul of Boutros and Joseph BouRamia requested by his family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the deceased members of the Pinto Family requested by Fatima DaSilva and family. May their souls rest in peace.

Monday, November 16, @ 6:00 PM, NO LITURGY

Tuesday, November 17, at 9:00 AM, NO LITURGY

Wednesday, November 18, at 6:00 PM, NO LITURGY

Thursday, November 19, @ 9:00 AM, NO LITURGY

Saturday, November 21, @ 4:30 PM, (Presentation of the Virgin Mary in the Temple) Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Saba and Anne Ramia by their family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Rose John requested by Mike and Diane LeBlanc and Family. May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, November 22, @ 10:30 AM, (Announcement to Mary) Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Mark Thomas requested by his family. May his soul rest in peace.

PLEASE NOTE THAT DAILY DIVINE LITURGIES WILL RESUME ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesday, November 17, we will gather for Eucharistic Adoration at 6:00 PM. This is an opportunity to spend some time with Jesus and ask for His help. Mark your calendars and please join us for this beautiful service.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Amal Assaf, Officer Vincent Peters, Peter Helmer, Denise Magaletta, Fernanda Thomas, Hiam Cheiab, Leo and Ida Roderick, Theresa John, Laurette BouRamia, Annie Peter, Jeannie Francis, Mariam David, Norma Thomas, Zita Drouin, Lucienne Rodrigues, Ed Da Rocha, Edmond Salameh, and Alice Daher. If anyone is missing from this list, please contact the Church office.

NOVEMBER LECTORS

Saturday, November 14

Carol Ann Maslanka

Sunday November 15

Jean Barbour/Jano Baroody

Saturday, November 21

Mae Dickinson

Sunday, November 22

Ann Dupre/Jano Baroody

Saturday, November 28

Smitty Cabral

Sunday, November 29

Mae Dickinson/Gaby Baroody

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

O Divine Ocean of Mercy and Compassion, be with us in our time of trial and difficulties. Today I make an act of spiritual communion with you, the Life-Giving Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. At this time, I am not able to receive the sacred body and blood of my Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, but I choose to live in union with him and in the unity of the Holy Spirit. I offer my day, my daily life, my joys and sorrows to you, for those around me, and for the whole world. Be with us O life-giving Triune God, for we know that nothing in this world has power over us. O Lover of all people, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Please know that confession is available before liturgies. You may also call to set up an appointment.

WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR November 7-8, 2020

Sunday Collection	\$ 4,758.00
Donation	\$ 5,000.00
Second Collection	\$ 174.00
Candles	\$ 33.00
Total:	\$ 9,965.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY BY SENDING IN YOUR WEEKLY COLLECTIONS VIA MAIL. THIS HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL FOR THE CHURCH. GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

Counseling ASSOCIATES

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[Sample bulletin block / graphic is optional / In email.]



Joseph & Marie Kenyon

*How empty life is without you.
Your Love and Patience has made
us into who we are today. Your
Guidance has set our path in life.
We Miss seeing your face, hearing
your voice, seeing your smile and
hearing your laugh. We Love you
and miss you even more with each
passing day*

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