



Archdiocese of San Antonio

Most Reverend Gustavo Garcia-Siller



**Homily – All Soul’s Day Mass
November 2, 2015**

Death, like life itself, is a great mystery. Whether a loved one has died suddenly or after a long, lingering illness, we are never quite prepared for that moment. But we begin to realize that our lives are forever changed by the departure of our beloved family and friends. Meanwhile we walk in faith.

For people without faith, death appears as an ending, utter destruction, meaningless. But for people of faith, death is only a passage into eternity. It is a new beginning. We believe that “the souls of the just are in the hand of God...they are in peace. The faithful shall abide with him in love.” (Wsd 3:1-9) Those are very consoling words for us. They allow us to continue our lives and honor our ancestors by the faithful way we live our lives.

Those who have died live on, not just in our memory, but in *la memoria* -- a mystery through which the person continues to be alive. When we gather around the altar for the Eucharist, we are truly

united with all those who have gone before us. This is a great, wondrous mystery, but we believe this with our whole mind, heart, and imagination. We are a community of faith!

Today we remember and pray for those who have died among our families and friends – those who were holy and those who, perhaps, were sinners like ourselves. We pray for those in purgatory; we rejoice with those who are in heaven.

We recognize that the Lord is our shepherd. Though we “walk through the dark valley,” we “fear no evil” for he is at our side (Ps 23). Jesus is “the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in [him], even if he dies, will live” (Jn 11:25). St. Paul tells us that “hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.” We have been reconciled with God through our Savior’s death on the Cross, and we are saved by his risen life. (Rm 5:5-11) Let us draw near to the Good Shepherd because he alone can guide us along the way that leads to eternal life. He is the only one who can nourish the deepest hungers of our hearts. He is the source of our hope for the future. He wants to walk with us, to accompany us on our pilgrim way that leads to eternal life.

May Our Lady, *la Morenita*, be with us today as she is with our departed family and friends – embracing us with the love of God's own mother.