My dear Little Flower Parishioners and friends all,

November is that special month of the year when we traditionally pray for our dead, a time when we seek the intercessions of the saints, all holy men and women, whom we believe are with God and the angels and the saints. You will note your All Souls intention envelopes on the altar of our church. It is a constant reminder of our prayer for those who have gone before us, especially those who have gone home to the Lord during this time of pandemic.

November is also a month when we annually celebrate Veterans Day, our yearly celebration of the 11th hour, the 11th day and the 11th month of 1918. It is a uniquely American remembrance. We pray in special fashion for all our veterans today and throughout this month, those patriots of every generation—living and deceased—those who have and continue to defend the freedoms we hold dear.

November is also a time, as the liturgical year draws to a close in a few weeks, to ponder the afterlife, that perduing question of life after death. People have bravely and faithfully died in the hope and expectation of life after death—life with the angels and the saints and in the embrace of our living God.

It is the promise of risen life, the bedrock of our Christian hope. Over and over again, we should repeat the inspired words of scripture: “If we die with Him, we shall surely live with Him.” Yes, it is our belief in a better life with the angels and the saints. It is a life of ultimate freedom, a life made possible—out of deep love for you and me—by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

It is important to understand that resurrection is not resuscitation—the bringing back of breath and life to a body that is only technically dead, like Lazarus.

No, resurrection is something radically new. It is a re-creation. It is the ultimate victory, a personal share in Christ’s own victory over sin and death. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches: “Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness.” No wall will separate us from God. We will see Him face to face. We will bask in His unapproachable light for God is “not the God of the dead but of the living.”

At every Mass, especially on Sunday, the Lord’s Day, I invite you to listen and ponder in your hearts and minds the assuring words of Jesus from St. John’s gospel: “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise you on the last day.” How overwhelmingly privileged we are to be nourished week in and week out, and at daily Mass, by our living Lord Jesus. Holy Communion plants, as it were, the fertile seed of the resurrection deep within us. This seed will grow, silently but assuredly, until it sprouts forth and yields the flower and fruit of life eternal, the pledge of eternal life promised to us.

In the love of Jesus,
Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi
Pastor