Rev. Toan Do
Job 19:1, 23-27a
Romans 5:5-11
John 6:37-40

FEAST OF ALL SOULS
Epiphany Catholic Church
Louisville, KY, USA
November 2, 2026

If you find any success in my voice today, it's due to Ricola. One of the parishioners not only reminded me last week, another one came over to the priest's house and gave me a bag of Ricola drops. I've been sucking them since last night, all night. For the last two weeks, I've struggled with my voice. The muteness of my silence has caused me a great deal of anxiety, but it seemed to break this morning. And before I delve into what I would like to share with us today on this beautiful occasion of the commemoration of all the faithful departed, can I ask all of us here, every one of us, and I assume that every one of us here either experienced the loss of a loved one or know someone who has gone before us.

So, I ask all of us to close our eyes for about 10 to 15 seconds. Let us begin. (Silence) And before you open your eyes, please think of that one loved one; or more than one, loved ones in your life or in your family. Let God drive your thoughts in silence and in darkness of the eyes. (Silence again) Thank you for your patience and your invitation to this experience.

I woke up at 5:00 AM this morning, and I was thinking, am I, because Father Emmanuel had offered to celebrate this mass this evening, and I said, let's play it by ear. We talked last night. And I woke up this morning, and I said to myself, am I able to share what I believe or what my reflections and thoughts are about the commemoration of all the faithful departed? All of a sudden, something dawned in my mind, and I was told I needed to go to Calvary Cemetery today. So I went back to sleep, and I woke up at about eight o'clock because it was supposed to be my day off. And when I got up, I walked with Lou, and we both walked. And when I came back, I had coffee and then did something preparing for this evening.

Then I went to the office, and after I went to the office, the plan was to go to Calvary Cemetery because I was thinking of all the faithful departed, particularly the 40 some members that are listed in our petitions today that moments later we will listen to each and all of their names. And as I went through the list, I did the funeral for almost all of them this past year. Not only that, I wanted to experience

and to pay tribute to all those who have gone this past year, and more so all members and benefactors of Epiphany who have gone before my time here. And I know that not all of them were buried. As you know, many of us now have our loved ones, or they decided to have themselves, to be cremated. And I know one of us here, Rosemarie, her cremains were brought back to Ireland and were buried in Ireland.

So, we have people who are being buried as far as in Europe and in South America, for example, but I had my simple act of going to Calvary Cemetery to commemorate the dead whom we celebrated this past year. And not only that, I brought with me the breviary. As a priest, we say midday prayer, too. So, I brought it with me, and I drove around the cemetery, and I stopped where my Mom's grave is. And I stopped there and I prayed midday prayer. And of course, as we all know about the breviary, or the liturgy of the hours for ordained or vowed clergy religious people, this always starts with, of course, the name of the triune God, the Psalms, then scripture readings and then petitions, and then reflections and concluding prayer. Of course, towards the end, before I say the Our Father, as often is my habit, I begin to make personal prayers. And in that personal prayer, I closed my eyes for about as long as I could remember. And at the end of that prayer, when I woke up - I knew that I was falling asleep - and I was praying for all those names who have gone before us this past year at Epiphany.

The first reading today, as we recall from the Book of Job, when Job talked to his friends, he reminded his friends that his vindicator lives, namely God lived. God does not die. God is the God of the living. And the one who vindicates all of the dead is God himself. And in Paul's letter to the Romans, Paul reminds the Roman Christians in his time that hope does not disappoint. So we all have our loved ones who have gone before us. Today, we commemorate their departure. We remember their leaving us this past year. And all those in the years before and the years before, going back, for example, here at Epiphany to the time when our parish was founded in 1971 until now; many of our benefactors and faithful members of Epiphany have gone before us. Today, we remember them, not because they've died, not because they are dead. We remember them, we commemorate them because God vindicates their death. As Jesus reminds his disciples in the gospel today, it is God's will that anyone and everyone who believes in Jesus, the one whom God sent, not because belief in the Jesus who walked and preached and is with them; but believes in the resurrection that God has conquered the final sin, namely death.

God vindicates them beginning with Jesus, all of our loved ones who have gone before us this past year particularly, 40 some names on our list this year, and many

before us and in your own families. Those who believe in Jesus, they were the ones who lived their faith and their life on the principle and the faith and conviction of the resurrection that God has conquered on behalf of humanity through Jesus Christ. It is this very moment. It is today that we do not commemorate, we do not remember the dead. We remember those who have gone before us and those who are now in the hands of God.

You know what? Today at Calvary Cemetery, when I woke up from my slumber, I recall there were some moments which I could not describe. I was with all the living. And the living here were all the faithful of Epiphany, were all faithful members and benefactors of Epiphany, including my Mother, who died in 2022. They are all in God's hand. Let us use this very special day, this very special moment to give thanks to God, to give thanks to God for all those whom he raised from the dead.