NOVEMBER 1ST, 2026
SUNDAY: ALL SAINTS DAY

Rev 7:2-4, 9-14
1 Jn 3:1-3
Mt 5:1-12a

My dear brothers and sisters, Happy All Saints Day.

Why do we celebrate today? Simple: because holiness is possible.

Today we celebrate the victory of our fellow human beings. The saints in the calendar, and also our own beloved – our grandmothers, fathers, friends – who lived a good, faithful life and are now saints before God, even if not in the calendar.

The book of Revelation (First Reading) shows us a great crowd in heaven, from every nation. That crowd is our family. They made it. So, we also can make it. They are rejoicing with our Heavenly Father.

As we celebrate, our common question is: **CAN WE BECOME SAINTS?**

The answer is YES. At our Baptism, God whispered to us, "You are my child, be holy as I am holy." That is our calling. Holiness is for us all.

And you know who can tell if we are becoming saints? The people around us. Your husband, your wife, your children, your neighbor, your student, your workmate. They see our life every day. They are our mirrors – we are mirrors to each other. And as the ancient Latin saying goes, Vox populi, vox Dei – the voice of the people can be the voice of God, when spoken in truth and love.

In the seminary, we learned this in a sweet but painful way. We were four good friends in major seminary – philosophy and theology. Every month, we made a small list of life areas – prayer, humility, kindness, hard work. We each made three copies and secretly evaluated the other three friends. Then on Sunday evening, we sat as brothers and shared the results.

I tell you, 95% was true. Sometimes it was painful when a friend told me – "Francis, you need to improve here and there." But that honest love made us grow. We became better people because we allowed brothers to correct us with love.

My dear friends, **sainthood starts like that – at home or work place, now, while we are still alive. It starts when we humbly say, "I have weaknesses, I want to change, Lord help me."**

And Jesus shows us the sweet way today to sainthood – the Beatitudes, in the Gospel text.

If I am proud, the Beatitude says, be humble, poor in spirit.
If I am ungrateful, be thankful, hunger for God.
If my motives are not pure, ask for a pure heart.
If I am afraid to do good, be courageous to do a good thing, be a peacemaker.
If I cannot forgive, remember – be merciful, as God is merciful to you.
If I am lazy in my duties, be faithful in little things, be hardworking.

A saint is not someone who never falls. A saint is someone who falls, repents, and rises again with love.

So today, go home and ask your family or ask a friend: "**Do you see a saint in me**?" And also take 5 minutes to read about your patron saint. His or her story will be very helpful to your spiritual growth.

We pray, asking Mother Mary, Queen of All Saints, and St. Bavo our patron Saint – to pray for us, that we may know our weaknesses, repent with joy, and one day join the company of all saints.

Happy All Saints Day to you all.