

HOMILY FOR ALL SOULS DAY

1. 1969 Peggy Lee made famous a song: Is that all there is: Lyrics
 - a. As child sees their house on fire, in her father's arms it seems whole world is on fire, afterward says to herself, is that all there is
 - b. Sings chorus: Is that all there is, if it is then let's just keep dancing, break out the booze and have a ball
 - c. 2nd verse she goes to a circus, greatest show on earth, again afterwards asks is that all there is; repeats the chorus
 - d. 3rd verse she meets a boy and falls in love, after he is gone, is that all there is
 - e. Last verse; you may ask why not just end it all, but death will be the biggest disappointment, is that all there is
2. There is a lot of truth to this song
 - a. Often we will get highly enthused about some new fad or gadget
 - b. If commercially viable, the media raises the level of anticipation
 - c. Prepare for Christmas with sales before Halloween
 - d. Then the big day comes, momentarily excited, next day is the letdown,
 - i. Xmas trees already being taken down, Now where do I go
3. Or the basic concept of capitalism is said to be, he wins who dies with the most toys
 - a. Question is, then what, he will become dust like every other human
 - b. the world offers us death, and as Peggy Lee says the biggest disappointment
4. Unless we believe the Christian message
 - a. God has intervened in the world to offer it real life
 - b. Jesus has given His life for us on the Cross to invite us to come to real life
 - c. Jesus having gone before us, invites us to see death not as a disappointing end of everything
 - d. Rather it is a doorway into glory beyond our imagination
 - e. We are invited to come face to face with the Creator of the Universe, the Redeemer of humanity and the Spirit of life, the three persons of God acting as one
5. As we meet the God of glory at the end of our life, we will have the chance to make our final decision about who we are
 - a. This decision will be the culmination of all the decision we have been making until the moment we die
 - i. It will probably be very similar to the decisions we have been making
 - b. We will have the freedom to reject God
 - i. Rather than submitting to the God of the universe we can decide to refuse to be sorrowful for our sins
 - ii. We might rather live with disappointment than accept God as our Lord
 - c. Some among us willingly acknowledge every sin, failing and weakness
 - i. These will happily say I offended God in many ways but I know that God has forgiven me in His love

- ii. These we will honor as immediate saints in heaven, rejoicing fully in God's glory
 - d. Many of us are somewhere in between
 - i. We want to surrender ourselves to God, we even know that will be true happiness
 - ii. But the things of this world also attract us, we struggle with actually surrendering these to put God first
 - iii. We have lifestyles, that we know could be holier but it is hard to change
 - iv. In fact many of us do not even want to look deeply into ourselves, fearful of what we might find
 - v. Many stay away from Reconciliation not because our sins would be so bad, but because we are not even sure what we should confess
 - 1. We do not know our faults and may not be sure we want to
 - 2. If we did, we might have to change, and change is hard
 - e. For those of us in this in between, meeting God at the point of death will be Purgatory
6. In the light of all God has done for us, we will see ourselves and all the decisions of our life at one moment
- a. This moment of Purgatory is not literal fire, but the sudden awareness of who we could have been but chose not to be will burn like fire
 - b. We will be brought face to face with our shame and guilt and watch God wash it all away
 - c. There is no time in Purgatory but it is a transition where we are finally cleansed
 - d. God moves us away from being on the fence towards becoming saints totally accepting and grateful for his forgiveness
7. It is for all those who die in this in between stage and for ourselves that we pray today
- a. At every Mass we pray for those who have died but especially today
 - b. In our prayer we tell them that they are not alone as they face God and review their lives
 - c. We promise our loving support for them
 - d. Through the mystery of the communion of saints we have confidence that they hear our prayers and find comfort and reassurance
8. Because of our hope and confidence in the gift Jesus gave us in the Resurrection, we can move beyond the despair of Peggy Lee's song
- a. Because of our faith we know that this is not all there is, there is a mystery and wonder in God that we will never tire of exploring and enjoying