

## **Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time “C” Cycle November 6, 2016**

**The autumn season has its charms, especially the changing color of foliage, the cooler weather, and the harvesting of crops. Gradually, as winter draws near, nature will enter dormancy and appear lifeless. We know, however, that all will come to life again in spring.**

**In a similar way, what happens in nature is reflected in human life. We begin as tiny cells, are born, develop, mature, grow old, and eventually die. To all observable appearances, this seems to be the end of our existence.**

**Our Catholic Christian faith, supported by God’s revelation in the Holy Scriptures, however, affirms that there is a continuation of life after death. The first reading, from the Old Testament’s Second Book of Maccabees, tells the story of a brave Jewish mother and her sons who refused to renounce their faith, choosing rather to die as martyrs in a most cruel and savage way.**

**Each of the brothers willingly endured their sufferings, proudly professing their faith in the resurrection promised by God.**

**In the Gospel, we hear about some of the Sadducees, who denied the resurrection. They try to trap Jesus with a contrived and hypothetical case of a woman marrying seven brothers, each of whom dies before her. Perhaps she is the proto-type “black widow!” In the after-life, the Sadducees ask, “whose wife will she be?”**

**Jesus responds by stating that marriage will not be the same as in this life, but will be transformed. He goes on to teach that the dead will indeed be resurrected. Jesus cites Moses’ encounter with God at the burning bush when he exclaimed: “Lord, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob.” These had all died, but Moses realizes that they are living with God. Jesus concludes: “he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive.”**

**Eternal life beings not when we die but when we are baptized. By our baptism we are given a life relationship with the Lord which will last forever. This gift was given to us by Jesus by virtue of his own death and triumphant resurrection.**

**Of course, we are called upon to sustain this relationship with the Lord by living our faith in accordance with Lord’s teachings. He assists us by offering us the**

**support of Mother Church, her faithful members, and her sacraments.**

**Many of us have a healthy fear of death because we have never personally experienced it. This is a fear of the unknown, the mysterious. We may also be afraid because our faith is not perfect and our faults and sins weaken it. Hopefully, this fear will motivate us to live our faith more strongly.**

**As we prayerfully reflect during this month of November on these themes and on our beloved dead, may we take courage from the example of the martyrs cited in the Old Testament reading, and all the martyrs for the faith over the centuries.**

**Most importantly may we be encouraged by the teachings and example of Jesus Christ, the conqueror of death and our Savior. He saves us for a life of endless joy with God.**