

# Parents in Prayer

During the month of November,  
when we remember our loved ones that have gone before us in faith...  
may this simple story remind us of the  
joyful reunion that we are all invited to attend!  
Come join Parents in Prayer as we remember our family and friends ...

A woman was diagnosed with a terminal illness, and she contacted her Priest to discuss her final wishes. At the end of their visit she remembered something important. "One more thing," she said excitedly. "I want to be buried with a fork in my hand." The Priest just stared at her, not knowing what to say.

She explained, "In all my years attending church dinners, as we cleared the main course dishes, someone would always say, 'Keep your fork'. That's when I knew something even better was coming...like rich chocolate cake or a delicious apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance!"

"So, I just want people to see me in that casket with a fork in my hand, and wonder, 'Why?' Then, Father, I want you to tell them: 'Keep your fork...the best is yet to come'." The Priest's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the woman good-bye, for he knew that she really understood the true consolation of one who dies with faith in Christ!

*"For those who have been faithful, O Lord, life is not ended, but merely changed; and when this earthly abode dissolves, an eternal dwelling place awaits them in heaven."*

## **Preface from the Mass for Christian Burial**

During November we also have the privilege of praying for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. Benedict XVI also reflected on the commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, which the Church observed Monday, and encouraged the faithful to "live this annual celebration in keeping with a genuine Christian spirit."

Referring to the tradition of visiting cemeteries to pray for the departed, the Pope said: "Let us remember that there, in the tombs, only the mortal remains of our loved ones rest, while awaiting the final resurrection. Their souls -- as Scripture says -- already 'are in the hand of God.

"Hence, the most appropriate and effective way to honor them is to pray for them, offering acts of faith, hope and charity."

By praying for the dead, he said, one can "experience the most profound communion" with the faithful departed.