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Pope Benedict XVI

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November 2008



The Temple of Stones Is a Symbol of the Living Church – Angelus Address on November 9, 2008

We call upon the intercession of Mary Most Holy, that she help us to become, like her, the “house of God,” a living temple of his love.

On All Saints' Day – November 11, 2008

The solemnity of All Saints was gradually affirmed over the course of the first Christian millennium as a collective celebration of the martyrs. Already in 609, in Rome, Pope Boniface IV had consecrated the Pantheon, dedicating it to the Virgin Mary and all the martyrs. This martyrdom, on the other hand, can be understood in a broad sense, that is, as love for Christ without reserves, love that is expressed in the total gift of oneself to God and to neighbor.

Let us place, dear friends, our hand in the maternal hand of Mary, Queen of the saints, and allow ourselves to be guided by her toward the heavenly homeland, in the company of the blessed spirits “of every nation, people and tongue” (Revelation 7:9).

[After praying the Angelus, the Pope greeted the people in various languages. In English, he said:]

May the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the Saints strengthen us in faith and fervent hope in the fulfillment of Christ’s promises.

Papal Address to Laity Council – November 15, 2008

Work in the Lord's large vineyard needs *Christifideles Laici* who, like the Most Holy Virgin Mary, speak and live the “fiat” to God's plan in their life. With this prospective, I thank you, then, for your precious contribution to such a noble cause and I wholeheartedly impart the Apostolic Blessing to you and those dear to you.

On Investing Our Talents – Angelus Address on November 16, 2008

The Gospel teaching, which the liturgy offers us today, has entered even into the historical and social sphere, promoting an active mentality among Christian populations. But the central message regards the spirit of responsibility with which the Kingdom of God is to be accepted: responsibility toward God and toward humanity. This attitude is perfectly incarnated in the heart of the Virgin Mary who, receiving the most precious of gifts, Jesus himself, offered him to the world with great love. Let us ask her to help us to be "good and faithful servants," so that one day we can take part "in the joy of our Lord."

[After praying the Angelus, the Holy Father greeted the crowds in several languages. In English, he said:]

On this third Sunday of November, we remember in a special way all those who have died as a result of traffic accidents. ... Dear brothers and sisters, I implore everyone - drivers, passengers and pedestrians - to heed carefully the words of Saint Paul in the Liturgy of the Word today: "stay sober and alert". Our behavior on the roads should be characterized by responsibility, consideration and a respect for others. May the Virgin Mary lead us safely along streets and highways throughout the world.

Address on Monastic Life to the Plenary Assembly of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life – November 20, 2008

Let us invoke Mary, Mother of the Lord, the "woman of listening", who put nothing before love for the Son of God, born of her, so that she may help communities of consecrated life and, especially, monastic communities to be faithful to their vocation and mission.

Address to Amalfi Pilgrimage Group – November 22, 2008

May St. Andrew help you to renew courageously your decision to belong to Christ and to put yourselves at the service of his Kingdom of justice, peace and love, and may the Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus our King, always protect your communities.

On the Final Judgment – Angelus Address on November 23, 2008

God will accept into his eternal kingdom those who have made the effort every day to put his word into practice. This is why the Virgin Mary, the most humble of his creatures, is the greatest in his eyes and sits as Queen at the right of Christ the King. We desire to entrust ourselves with filial confidence once again to her heavenly intercession, so that we might realize our Christian mission in the world.

Visit of Catholicos Aram I: A Further Step Towards Unity – November 26, 2008

Together let us invoke the intercession of St. Gregory the Illuminator and above all of the Virgin Mother of God, so that they will enlighten our way and guide it towards the fullness of that unity which we all desire.

Homily at First Vespers for the First Sunday Of Advent – November 29, 2008

We turn our gaze and heart to him (our Lord), in spiritual union with the Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Advent. Let us place our hand in hers and enter with joy into this new season of grace that God grants his Church for the good of the whole of humanity. Like Mary and with her maternal assistance, let us make ourselves docile to the action of the Holy Spirit, so that the God of Peace might completely sanctify us, and the Church might become a sign and an instrument of hope for all men.

On God's Gift of His Time – Angelus Address on November 30, 2008

The Virgin Mary is the icon of Advent. Let us call upon her to help us to become an extension of humanity for the Lord who comes.

Pope's Homily for St. Lawrence Jubilee Year convoked to commemorate the 1750th

anniversary of the deacon – November 30, 2008

Mary, the humble Virgin of Nazareth, chosen by God to be Mother of the Redeemer, St. Andrew, whose feast we celebrate today, and St. Lawrence, example of intrepid Christian fidelity to the point of martyrdom, guide and accompany us with their intercession. Amen.