November 3: Deceased Members of the Franciscan Family (Jn 6:37-40)

**ETERNAL LIFE NOW**

Today, we remember all the deceased members of the Franciscan Family. We pray that the result of their faith in Jesus Christ will be their final resurrection from the dead, and the fullness of eternal life with the Blessed Trinity.

In the gospel, we have some sayings of Jesus grouped together because they deal with the same subject, which is that God wills to save all, despite some people’s refusal to be saved.

These sayings speak of faith and the lack of faith. God wants to save us by our having faith in him. The result of faith is eternal life and our final resurrection from the dead (cf. Jn 6:35-36).

God the Father has given to his Son the gift of people: followers, disciples, members of his mystical body. Whoever accepts this gift “comes to” Jesus, that is, believes in him. Jesus does not allow these people to be lost (cf. Jn 6:37-40).

God’s saving will for us is fleshed in Jesus. Jesus has come into this world, not to do his own will, but to do the will of the Father who sent him (cf. Jn 6:38).

Jesus develops the theme of faith as communion with his person. To believe is to see the Son. It is to recognize his relations with the Father, expressed through his obedience and his mission. To believe also means *to come* to Jesus, to be given to him as a disciple by the Father.

As disciples of Jesus, we cling to him, not by our own initiative or merely through personal attraction or enthusiasm, but through the gift of God. True disciples bind themselves to the person of Jesus, not only because of what he said but more so because of who he is, the Son of God and our brother.

Our “yes” of faith in Jesus is a definitive yes, an unconditional donation to him of our whole being. We are united in this way to Christ and form with him a single being so that the believer already has eternal life.

Our destiny is fixed by our likeness to Christ, here and now, as we rely on God’s mercy. In so far as it depends on us, our destiny cannot change any more after this life. We can change nothing after our death or on the Last Day. There can be only the confirmation of the present. Only the person who possesses eternal life now, already in this present life before death, will rise and live.