Welcome to the Month of November – The Month of prayer for the Souls
The beginning of November is graced by two feast days that celebrate the Communion of the Church: **the Solemnity of All Saints (November 1), and the Commemoration of All Souls, (November 2).** At this month, we learn about the terminology in Catholic Church.
Church Militant: The term, Church Militant, highlights the constant struggle of the Church's members with temptation and sin. Specifically, the term signifies the "Church on earth, still struggling with sin and temptation, and therefore engaged in warfare … with the world, the flesh, and the devil" (Hardon, Modern Catholic Dictionary).
Church Suffering: The Church Suffering is the "the faithful departed who are saved but are still being purified in purgatorial sufferings" (Hardon, Modern Catholic Dictionary).
Church Triumphant: The Church Triumphant refers to the "Church of all those in heavenly glory who have triumphed over their evil inclinations, the seductions of the world, and the temptations of the evil spirit" (Hardon, Modern Catholic Dictionary).
We who are living in the world, are called the "**Church Militant**;" we fight the good fight of faith. (I Tim 6:12) Faith tells us that some are in heaven. They are called "**The Church Triumphant**." Some of those souls of the faithful departed are in Purgatory. They are "**The Church Suffering**."

November 1: The Solemnity of All Saints

The souls in heaven are called saints. The Church raises up some saints "to the dignity of the altar." They are canonized saints. By the process of the study of their lives, and the verification of miracles through their intercession, the Church testifies that they were holy men and women (or children), and that they exhibited an extraordinary or "heroic" virtue worthy of imitation. Prayer through the intercession of these saints is formalized in the Church's liturgy. Often times we may look to them for a particular strength. They may be our "patron" as a parish priest, (St John Vianney), a carpenter or builder (St. Joseph), a wife and mother, (Blessed Mother Mary, St Monica, etc.) a lawyer (St Thomas More), and many others.

November 2: The Commemoration of All Souls

Purgatory

Defined and affirmed by several councils, Purgatory is a clear teaching of the Catholic Church. "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1030)
While we never stop praying for them and for their eternal happiness in heaven, we also may turn to them for their intercession. They are "the Communion of Saints," in whom we profess belief at the end of the Apostles Creed. With us, and with the Poor Souls in Purgatory, they are living members of the Church. From heaven they can assist us as we strive to live faith, hope, and charity in obedience to God's law and Christ's teaching.
Pray for all those who have gone before us "marked with the sign of faith:" that the suffering souls in purgatory may soon reach heaven; that the saints will help us by their example, their prayers, and friendship.

All Souls Day Plenary Indulgence

A plenary indulgence – the complete remission of the temporal punishment due to sin – can be gained for a soul in purgatory on All Souls Day, (November 2) by making a visit to a church or oratory where the Most Blessed Sacrament is reserved.
There we should offer the "Our Father," the "Hail Mary," and the "Glory Be," six times each.
To receive this indulgence on behalf of a soul, the usual conditions should be observed, that is: you should make a good Confession and receive Holy Communion worthily within some days before or after the visit. It is variously said to be 8 to 20 days. Additionally, it is necessary to offer some prayers for the Holy Father.
Note: This article from Phong's class of *Ecclesiology and Ecumenism* by Dr. J. Marianne Siegmund at Holy Apostles Seminary at www.catholicaction.org