

Notes from the Liturgist

How are we to live our “DASH” [-] ?

During the week we celebrated the Feast of All Saints and All Souls. What a beautiful tradition that we remember the people especially those who are gone before us. When I was reflecting on these feasts, it came to my mind this punctuation [-]. When we look at the tombstone at the grave, we notice the year of birth and the year of death. But even more important is the dash [-], the small thin line in between those years. That dash represents the many years a person lived his life. Was it happy or was it sad? Good or bad? Productive or useless? How are we to live our dash?

Saints were people like us, who lived good and holy lives, and now enjoy the rewards of eternal happiness in the presence of God and in the company of the angels and all the saints in heaven.

Why do we honor them in the Church? If God honors them, and the scriptures honor them, so must we honor them too. We are even encouraged to read and learn more about the life stories of the saints for they are truly remarkable and courageous Christians. Many Christians have prayed and asked the help of these triumphant members of the church in heaven and have benefited from their intercession, help and protection.

The beatitudes of Jesus tell us the secret of the saints for the happiness and sanctity, not only on earth, but more so in God's kingdom. They made themselves poor before God, humble and compassionate. They were peacemakers, clean of conscience and righteous in all virtues. They suffered and sacrificed; they were persecuted and criticized. Remaining faithful to the Lord, they face everything that life could throw at them. Surely, for the saints, their 'dash' glows.

Looking at the dead, and looking up to the saints, we ask ourselves: **How are we to live our dash?**

– ACE TUPASI