



***November Thoughts by Marge Loenser***

Our Father, Master Creator, Master Artist, paints November's tapestry with bright, bold colors! We see fields of orange pumpkins, forests of trees waving leaves that are scarlet, gold, red and yellow! How beautiful. Thank you, Lord, for the beauty of your creation that we can delight in each day.

November starts out with All Saints Day, followed by All Souls Day. This month we celebrate two Saint Martins! On the third, St. Martin de Porres, son of a Spanish nobleman and a Panamanian ex-slave. He was poor and suffered much for his mixed racial origin. He was very humble and worked in an infirmary. He died in 1639. We pray for his intercession during these times of racial tension and violence.

St Martin of Tours from the 4<sup>th</sup> century is remembered for the act of charity he performed. While serving in the Roman army he came upon a half-clothed man, drew his sword and cut his cape in two, giving half to the poor man. Later that night he saw Jesus in a vision explaining how Martin shared his cloak with Him. I love that story and I'm so proud to have received First Holy Communion and Confirmation at St. Martin of Tours church, Brooklyn, NY!

Another saint we celebrate this month, is St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, better known as 'Mother Cabrini.' Frances emigrated to this country from Italy. She worked with poor immigrants and was the first U.S. citizen to become a saint. Having descended from Italian immigrants, I say "thank you Mother for working with those newly arrived immigrants who desperately needed your guidance and advocacy."

On the 24<sup>th</sup> we celebrate St. Andrew Dung -Lac and his companions. They were part of 117 martyrs from Vietnam. They suffered all manner of cruelty and torture, but refused to denounce their faith. We ask for their intercession for all peoples being murdered, tortured and held captive for their faith.

We celebrate St. Andrew, Peter's brother, on the 30<sup>th</sup>. He was a follower of St. John the Baptist and was instrumental in bringing the other fishermen to Jesus. St. Andrew, it must have humbled you to live in the shadow of your brother, St. Peter, but you show those of us living simply how God uses all of us to carry out his work, regardless of our status or popularity, so long as we say, yes to Jesus--here I am, Jesus.

Let us pray for the sick, especially those in hospitals, nursing homes and rehabs. We lift up those tempted to turn to drugs and alcohol during these trying times. One day at a time, we can surrender to God and ask for His Divine intervention.

God bless America this Thanksgiving! May we remember to thank God for everything He does for us.

May God bless each of you and remember, don't ever lose your sense of wonder OR humor! God Love you! Marge



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