



DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Office of the Bishop

March 1, 2021

My Dear Friends in Christ,

At the Mass, we pray for those “who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith and who now sleep in peace”. It is important to visit the graves of our departed ones in our cemeteries, for Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25) and we believe the Lord grants life to the departed, giving them the fullness of eternal life.

We always pray for the dead in every mass. As pilgrim members it is an honor to show respect for the memory of the dead. That is why we encourage cemetery visits, prayers for the deceased, with confident hope amid the sorrow of being separated from our loved ones, we know that death is not the last word because we are destined to endless life in Christ. Our destiny finds real fulfillment in God.

We also hope one day to be united in Christ with our loved ones who have already died. And we trust they have found true life in God.

May Mary, the true Gate of Heaven, assist us in praying for our departed loved ones so that we never lose sight of the ultimate goal of life, which is paradise.

Sincerely yours,

+ v. J. Estevez

Most Rev. Felipe J. Estevez, S.T.D.
Bishop of St. Augustine