

St. Rita's Centre

Augustinian Recollect Spirituality Centre

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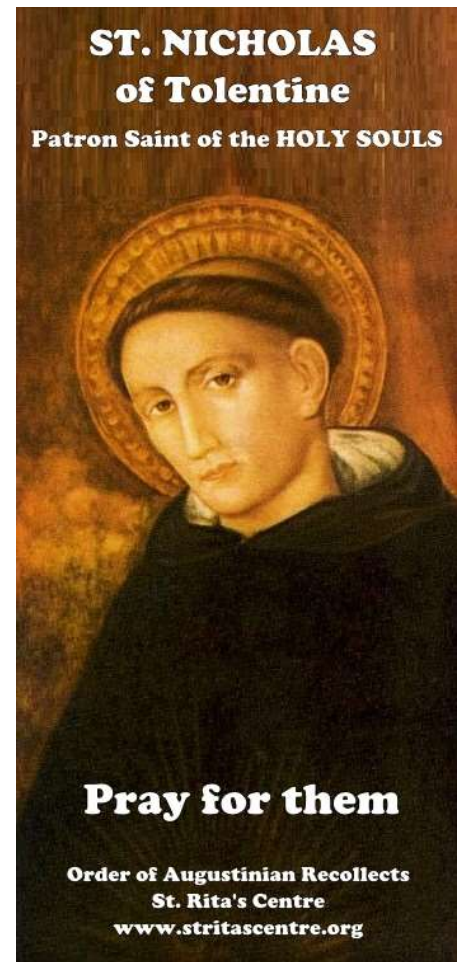
Dear Friends, as we approach November, the month in which the Church celebrates the feast of all the Saints and remembers all the faithful departed, offering special prayers for them, we remember also in a special way all our beloved ones who have already left this world to meet the Lord.

But this year it will not be the same as usual because of the coronavirus pandemic. It has been an extremely hard experience for so many people, for the whole of society and the Church. How many people, known and unknown, have left this world without the presence of their loved ones!

As we face the threat of a second wave, we as Christians have the great consolation and hope of our faith in Christ, our beloved and merciful Saviour. Our lives are in the hands of Jesus; we are never alone and the love of God surrounds us always; our Holy Mother Mary, with all the angels and saints, takes care of us and prays for us, assisting us at the hour of our death, as we every day ask her to do so. We as members of the Body of Christ pray for one another as well. With our prayers we have been helping our brothers and sisters in their last moments and we continue to help them in their way of receiving complete purification after death.

The faithful souls at the moment of death meet Jesus, our merciful judge, and in the light of Jesus they understand the great love of God and the unfathomable deepness of his mercy throughout their own lives, and as Saint Catherine of Siena teaches, the souls that are not yet completely pure and holy become suddenly aware of the infinite distance of their life from this goodness of God and consequently suffer for having failed to respond in a correct and perfect way to this love; and love for God itself becomes a flame, love itself cleanses them from the residue of sin.

Here in Saint Rita's Centre, we the Augustinian Recollects friars invoke the special intercession of our great Saint Nicholas of Tolentine, who was solemnly declared Patron Saint of the Holy Souls by Pope Leo XIII in 1884. This confirms a long-standing aspect of the devotion toward this friar which is traced to an event in his own life. On a certain Saturday night as he lay in bed, Nicholas heard the voice of a deceased friar whom



Nicholas had known and whose name was Pellegrino. He begged Nicholas to offer Mass for him and for other suffering souls in the Purgatory so that they might be set free. For the next seven days Nicholas did so and was rewarded with a second vision in which Fr. Pellegrino expressed his gratitude and assurance that a great number of people were now enjoying the presence of God through Nicholas' prayers. As this event became known, many people approached Nicholas, asking his intercession on behalf of their own deceased relatives and friends. St. Nicholas had a great love for the Holy Souls. He would offer Mass, pray and do penance for them so they could more quickly enter Heaven.

Dear friends, all those beloved brothers and sisters for whom we pray and offer Masses, as well as all the other holy souls that also receive the fruit of our prayers, will pray for us when they enter Heaven and will continue to help us as a sign of gratitude and love.

Let us pray this year for our beloved ones, for those devotees of Saint Rita who have left us this year, for all the victims of the coronavirus, and for all those holy souls for whom nobody prays.

At Rita's Centre, we will offer a daily Mass during the whole month of November for all your departed family members and friends included in your November Dead List and for all our deceased benefactors.

Beside the ordinary Masses for the dead, in our Order we celebrate and offer what is called "Tolentine's Septenary of Masses for the Holy Souls" for people who request it, that is, seven consecutive Masses celebrated for the release of a Holy Soul in Purgatory following the example of Saint Nicholas of Tolentine.

May God, through the intercession of St. Nicholas of Tolentine, give perfect purification to your faithful departed so that they can enjoy in Heaven eternal Peace and Joy, living for ever in the presence of the loving God.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Jose Romero OAR (Fr. Promoter)



Saint Nicholas offering the Mass for the liberation of the Holy Souls from Purgatory
Crypt of Saint Nicholas of Tolentine in St. Rita's Church (Madrid – Spain)