

Reflections on our Anniversaries for the Deceased

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One of the special devotions of our Dominican Order is the Celebration of the Anniversaries for the Deceased: February 7th for our Departed Parents, September 5th for our Departed Friends and Benefactors, and November 11th for all the Departed members of the Order, priests, nuns, sisters and the lay members. Devotion to the Faithful Departed is also manifested in the practice of praying daily in community Ps. 139 the De Profundis.

Speaking from personal experience, the anniversary in February honoring our departed parents is of special importance as many of us from my age bracket entering fifty-four years ago, feel we owe our vocations to our parents. The fact that many of us came from families where God was real to our parents, a living member of the family, made it somewhat easier for us to make the commitment to religious life or to ordination.

The September anniversary honoring our departed friends and benefactors acknowledges our complete dependence on those who have supported us in so many ways in our vocations. Without that support many would not have persevered.

And finally the anniversary in November honoring all the members of our Dominican family keeps us mindful of the variety and vastness of all those God has invited into this marvelous experience in the spirit of Dominic, men, women, preachers, theologians, artists, mothers, fathers, single women and men, etc. etc.

In gratitude we praise our God.