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Oblates of Mary Immaculate

<http://www.omijapankorea.net>, <http://www.oblates.or.kr>

MONTH OF NOVEMBER PRAYERS OFFERED FOR THE DEAD...

From the beginning, Christians have prayed for the dead and have undertaken works of penance on their behalf. There is scriptural basis for this intercessory prayer for the sins of others and for the dead in the Old Testament. Job's sacrifices purified his sons (Job 1:5); and Judas Maccabeus "made atonement for the dead that they be delivered from their sin" (II Macc 12:46).

The tradition in the Church of having Masses said for the dead began in the earliest times. The pre-Christian Roman religion, which held that some form of life continued after death, gave votive offerings to the gods for the dead at three specified times: the third, seventh and thirtieth day after death. This practice of praying for the departed on these same days was adopted / inculturated by the early Christians and continued in the Church for nearly 2000 years: the Church offered Masses for the deceased persons on the third, seventh and thirtieth day after death.

Beginning in the year 998, all souls, the "faithful departed" were officially remembered in the Church's prayers on the evening of November 1, and with Requiem Masses, Masses for the dead, on November 2. All Souls Day is now a feast of the universal Church.

We pray for the faithful departed, those who have been baptized, but who need to be completely purified of all stain of sin before they come into full union with God in Heaven.

And following this custom, we Oblates also allot a day of prayer for our deceased brothers, all the Oblates are invited to offer one Mass for the departed Oblate brethren on November 3; as the constitutions state, "We will keep alive the memory of our deceased and not fail to pray for them, faithfully offering the suffrages prescribed on their behalf (CC.43).

In Korea, the faithful and families spend the whole month of November, praying for their dead members of their families, friends. They chant psalms with a peculiar tune, so much so that brings to your mind all the dead and their memories. When they pray at homes, they place the deceased persons' photos on the altars. Likewise, in Churches, when they have vigils for the deceased, they place the parish priest's photo at the altars and in religious communities the superior's photo. Whatever is done, it is the fact that we remember our deceased with gratitude and love and set aside this month...