



Reflection from Fr. Garry Richmeier

November is the Church's traditional month for remembering the dead. But memories of our dead loved ones pop into our heads and hearts any time. Sometimes I'll be going through my ordinary day, and a memory of a friend or family member who has died suddenly comes to mind. Often, I haven't thought of that person for a long time, and I can't figure out why I thought of them at this particular moment. And then numbers of memories connected to this person fill my mind.

We humans have many theories and beliefs about what happens after death. Lacking clear scientific evidence in that regard, we are left to believe what makes sense to us, or what our faith tells us. When the memory of a deceased loved one pops into my head for no apparent reason, I like to think that the person is paying me a visit. Maybe just saying "Hi," or checking in on me, or reminding me of the relationship we had/have. Who is to say that my idea is right or wrong? The point is that this is a way to continue to experience the love I shared with people even after they are long dead.

Love is the basis for all life, and love is eternal. So any which way we experience love and care for others (living or dead) is a good thing. This month we celebrate our love for those who have died. If that looks like imagining they are hanging around us, drinking a toast to them, going to their favorite restaurant when they were alive, burning incense in front of their picture, or whatever, it really doesn't matter. What matters is remembering that it is love that connects us all.

*Blessings,
Fr. Garry*