

MASS FOR THE DECEASED – NOV. 3, 2023 – WRITE UP BY AUDREY JAMES

On Friday, Nov 3, 2023, at 7:00 pm, TEGSA held their Annual Mass for the Deceased which was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Edwin Gonsalves - Rector of St. Augustine Seminary.

It was a well-organized service by TEGSA's diligent team committee, with over 150 members in attendance.

The Mass started with a favorite and popular hymn "One day at a time" sung whole heartedly by the members led by the impromptu choir & Donald D'Silva skilled guitar music. The Gospel reading was from St. Luke Ch. 14 - 1:6.

Fr. Edwin in his homily gave a brief talk on St. Martin de Porres whose feast day, is celebrated on Nov 3. Fr. Edwin's favorite Saints being St. Therese of the Child Jesus & Mother Therese & St. Anthony (finder of lost articles). All these Saints promote love for God & our neighbors, and we too must love God & our neighbors and lead exemplary lives by loving & caring for all especially those in need.

Fr. Edwin being the Director of St. Augustine Seminary, Toronto, also requested us to keep him, all the priests and especially his 50 seminarians who are at different levels in our prayers by praying 3 Hail Mary's daily and to pray for vocations.

He further went on to say that as our children growing up, we teach them to love God, our neighbors, to pray and worship our Lord yet when the kids grow up things change and with peer pressure and the environment surrounding them, they may drift away. We should not give up but always continue to pray fervently for all children to return to our loving God.

The final hymn "How Great thou art" was sung with zeal & fervor.

A collection was taken & then presented to Fr. Edwin.

Our President Flora Vaz & VP Godfrey Cunningham gave brief speeches too & thanked all those who helped out to make the event a success as well as thanked all the members for coming to attend.

After the Holy Mass Celebration, we were all treated to a delicious snack box & karak chai brewed and served by Bosco, Errol & Jenny.

The evening or rather night ended with a nostalgic singing get-together by our awesome guitarists - Donald & Lorencio & we all joined in the vigorous singing taking us down a musical memory lane.

We all had an awesome time & look forward to the next event.