

November 2, 2018

Feast of All Souls 2018
From today's Old Testament Reading

WISDOM 3: 1-3

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was thought an affliction
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.
But they are in peace.
+++

Update from the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Guild

Blessings and peace to you this day.

The *Mattie J.T. Stepanek Guild* launched its spiritual and social media efforts yesterday – as we celebrated All Saints Day. And today, as we celebrate the All Souls Day, we are very blessed to already have so many supporters and followers on Twitter, FB, and folks looking at the website.

The newly-created *Mattie's Prayer* and information/story card, suitable for printing and sharing, is now ready (see next page). We thank John Capobianco and *Lumen Catechetical* for their expert help in the creation of this resource.

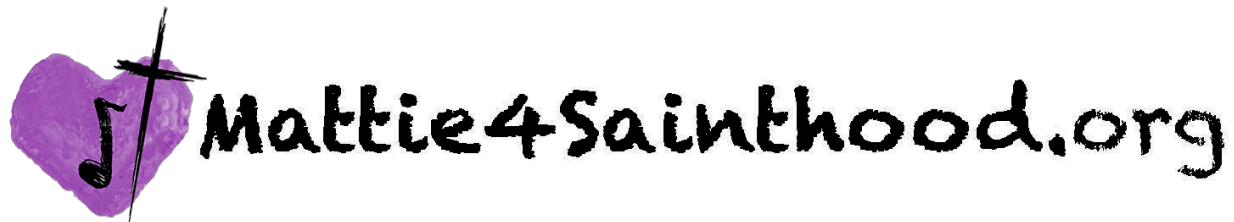
We also thank W. Thomas Curtis of *FSP and Associates, L.L.C.* for sharing his time and talent to complete our application for IRS non-profit status, so that the Guild will soon be able to move forward with tax-deductible donations to support our mission.

Please “share, follow, and like” our social media posts, and please visit our new website and contact us with comments, questions, and personal reflections of Mattie’s life, virtues, and impact. And please, pray for Mattie’s cause for sainthood – for our Church, and for our world.

The Mattie J.T. Stepanek Guild
www.Mattie4Sainthood.org

FB: Mattie 4 Sainthood
Twitter: @Mattie4Saint
#Mattie4Sainthood





Mattie J.T. Stepanek Guild

...promoting the cause for Mattie's sainthood...

Mattie4Sainthood.org
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Honoring
Mattie. J.T. Stepanek
1990-2004

All of us – children, teens and adults – are called to Holiness. The late teen poet and peacemaker, Mattie J.T. Stepanek, responded to this call generously. Even though he lived with a rare neuromuscular disease and chronic illness, Mattie shared his gifts by writing hundreds of poems and passages he called his *Heartsongs*. With bestselling books of poetry came opportunities to magnify his beliefs in a life of purpose, speaking gently but directly about matters of the heart, and soul. What nourished and inspired Mattie was his devotion to God, and the daily practice of his Catholic faith.

Mattie's call to holiness came at an early age, when, living in rural Maryland, Mattie began receiving what he called "messages" from God – messages he shaped into poetry and written works. These became the song of his heart and his purpose in life, and he encouraged others to find their *Heartsong* – the unique purpose given to each of us by God.

As a Catholic, Mattie attended Mass often and was a lector and religious education teacher for 2nd and 6th graders. Throughout his life, even while critically ill, Mattie showed unselfish concern for his family, friends, and especially the infants and children alongside him in the ICU. When given money to buy himself Christmas gifts, he used it instead to purchase movies and games for them, to lift their loneliness while in the hospital. He also wrote prayers and poetry for patients, families and medical staff, especially in times of crisis and loss.

Mattie endured lifelong disability, constant health challenges and ongoing financial difficulties. He chose not to be defeated by them, but instead, turned his face to God, responding to the purpose God gave him and living out his life as a faithful Catholic. Mattie died of complications from disability just before his 14th birthday.

The Mattie J.T. Stepanek Guild invites you to pray *Mattie's Prayer*, asking the Holy Spirit to guide us in our God-given purpose. Because Mattie's *Heartsongs* were given to him in his childhood and early teens, the Guild especially encourages children and teens to pray their way into a deeper relationship with God. ♥



Mattie's Prayer

God Our Father, I thank You for giving us each a life with a good and holy purpose, and for giving me a song in my heart that reminds me of my purpose every day.

I thank You for the gift of my neighbor, Mattie Stepanek, who lived his *Heartsong*, the grace-filled purpose You placed within him.

Mattie's *Heartsong* was to spread a message of hope and peace, and I, too, ask for that – for myself, my family, my friends, and for our world.

Help me remember to listen to and share the special *Heartsong* You have given me, today and every day of my life.

Help me to be strengthened in faith as I face daily challenges, just as Mattie was, choosing to use his gifts while living at peace with his disability and illness.

If it be Your Will, Father, allow Mattie's cause for sainthood to move forward, so that people everywhere will be inspired by Mattie's courage and kindness. Help me to trust in You as Mattie did, as I make this petition:

(mention your request).

We give glory to the Holy Trinity as we pray: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.



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