

Mar. 4, 2018: Help from the Saints to Become Our Best Selves

Dear Parishioners,

Pope Benedict once said that beauty and the saints are two things that have attracted people to the Catholic faith over the centuries. As Catholics we have such a rich and long tradition of sacred art, architecture and music that point to the transcendent. The saints are living icons of Christ. Their life and ways are the continuation of the gospel and the age-old tradition to the Church.

We do not study the life of a saint as we might read the story of a dead celebrity. The saint's life is dynamic because in Christ the saint is still alive. We venerate the saints and ask for their help because they have become our friends. The saints are like us and unlike us; they not only show us what we are but what we could and should become. We study and become close to the saints because in their lives we grow in the knowledge of love and we discover a person who has become the best version of themselves.

It would be impossible to really get to know all the saints throughout history. So we have to choose a few who speak to us, and as with people, we come to know them by circumstances or attraction. Two saints that I have come close to are St. Therese of Lisieux and St. Francis of Assisi. I got to know St. Therese through a book that a friend gave me called *The Story of a Soul*. Later I had the opportunity to visit her home town of Lisieux in France. I got to know St. Francis by visiting his home town of Assisi and reading about him.

Knowing Francis and the town of Assisi got me interested in walking the Way of St. Francis from Assisi to Rome, a walk I did make last October. On March 13th in the Pastoral Center I want to share a little about St. Francis and the journey I made in October, along with some pictures I took along the way.

On Monday, March 5th, I would like to meet with those who are participating in the adoration program as well as those who may be interested in become an adorer of the Blessed Sacrament. I want to talk about ways to pray before the Blessed Sacrament for an hour and how this time can be beneficial for our parish.

The altar of St. Joseph, made by Sonny Tremoulet, was dedicated in honor of Fr. Joseph Petosa. Please check out a plaque we have put up by the Altar of St. Joseph commemorating Fr. Joe who passed away last May.

In Christ,

Fr. Vincent