

All Saints Day
11/1/2020

LIGHT BULBS

There's something fascinating about light bulbs. They come in different sizes and shapes. There are big flood lights for stadiums, tiny tivoli lights in theater aisles, incandescent light bulbs, LED lights, colored lights and the list goes on but despite all those differences, those light bulbs share something in common. The source of energy comes from outside them but passes through them to give light.

Saints ARE like light bulbs. They come in different sizes, shapes and colors and the source of energy, God's grace, comes from outside them but it passes through them allowing them to share the light of Christ. Today we celebrate *All* saints, not just canonized or official saints, but all saints. We remember everyone who has completed the journey and is not sharing in the life and love of God in heaven. Hopefully, many we know are in that number. They can be seen in that great multitude found *from every nation, race, people, and tongue*. With lives of intentional faith they followed in the way of the beatitudes that we hear about in the gospel.

And this all points to something else. This is what the Second Vatican Council called the Universal Call to Holiness. We're all called to holiness of life. It's not as if some people are called to be holy, and others are called well, to just stay out of trouble. We're all called to holiness of life in our own way and through our own state of life. We're all called to be saints.

Through him, with him, and in him, O God Almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours. We hear these words at every Mass and they neatly describe the work of Christ in the story of salvation. That work is continued on through the Church. But through the saints over the centuries, the work of the Church continues, and it continues through us.

Through you, with you and in you, the work of the Church continues, even in times of pandemic. We do this by living lives of intentional faith, as we live our daily lives, and work as we work for the common good and seek to build the kingdom of God. It often involves, as St. Therese teaches us, doing ordinary things with great love. The mission the Church continues through our parish.

Through your generosity and that of those who have come before us, for more than seventy years, the work of the Church has been continued by St. Therese Parish. The generosity of the people here has given us this beautiful campus where children

and adults receive new life through baptism, where people find mercy and forgiveness through the sacrament of Reconciliation, where the sick are anointed, where men and women sacramentalize their love through Matrimony, where the faithful are confirmed, where the dead are prayed for and where daily the Eucharist is offered.

Here, the faith is shared through our early education center, school and religious education programs for children and adults. Here, Christ is served in the less fortunate as our St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry serves to feed the hungry in Platte County. And there is more, but all this is undergirded by your generosity and through your generosity, the mission of the Church continues, even in a time of pandemic.

Recently, all registered households have received, or will receive, a stewardship renewal for 2021. This year has been hard for many people in many different ways. We are asking you to do what you can. We have faced additional expenses such as disinfectant which we use after every Mass, hand sanitizer and the purchase of quality video equipment offering live streams not just Sunday Mass but other events including weddings and funerals. What a gift that is for family and friends who cannot attend those events in person to participate from afar. That's a wonderful gift but it's also an expense.

Now, we particularly need your help as we try to keep pace and to pay off our debt. Please complete your 2021 stewardship commitment and return it in the mail, here at church or online. Your generosity makes a difference.

As Catholic Christians, the Eucharist is the heart and soul of what we do and there's no substitute for it. What the Eucharist is to our spiritual life, regular, generous giving is to our financial life. Nothing takes the place of regular, generous giving. That's what keeps us going and that keeps the mission of the Church going.

Saints are like light bulbs, they let the light of Christ shine through them. We have one job in life and that is to become a saint. St. Therese said, *Don't wait until tomorrow to begin becoming a saint.* Through, with, and in the saints, the mission of the Church continues. Through you, with you, and in you, and by your generosity, the mission of the Church continues and the mission of St. Therese Parish continues.