

FROM THE PASTOR

My dear brothers and sisters,

This is an exciting weekend for the Church: Mother Teresa of Calcutta is being Canonized by Pope Francis. I know I wrote about this last week, but, hey, I think it's important! Growing up, I had always heard of Mother Teresa and the incredible works of mercy that she did. She was a person that inspired great awe! Sometimes we think of Saints as someone distant, unapproachable, yet Mother Teresa was just that – approachable! From every encounter that I have heard about her, she was someone people felt utterly comfortable around. This is what love does.

I have heard so many stories of people who were in a crowd of hundreds (or more) who had seen Mother, and they felt as if they were able to be there with her, alone. Each person she encountered was a unique manifestation of the God's love in the world, and she treated each person as that. How could she do that?

The story starts when she was a young girl in Albanian, where she fell in love with the Sacred Heart of Jesus. When she received His Eucharistic Heart (in her First Holy Communion) she was deeply touched and her life was changed. She knew she wanted to give her life fully to her Lord, her Love. After becoming a religious sister, and eventually being sent to India to teach, she made a special vow (with the permission of her spiritual director) to withhold nothing from Jesus. It was the fruit of this vow where she heard the "call within a call" to give her life to God through the poorest of the poor.

Through all of this, she spent time each day in **adoration** of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Every day, spending time with Our Lord – the Lover of her soul – she trained her eyes to pierce the appearance of bread to see her Lord. When Jesus called her *beyond*, her eyes had been trained to see Christ now in *each person*. You see, this was the secret of Mother Teresa and how each person felt uniquely loved by her – she sought Jesus, she looked for Jesus, her Love, in each person. In learning to find Jesus in each person – again, not just as Lord or Master, but as Lover – she could love each person, recognize the dignity of each person, treat each person as the important person that he or she is.

What an amazing Saint! Saint Teresa of Calcutta!

I pray that the love in action lived by St. Teresa, the love that spurred St. Teresa on to respect each and every person with the respect of God, will truly be deeply planted in each of our hearts and in our Parish. Truly, to live out this love, will transform our parish, our town, our world!

As I mentioned last week, we are starting up the challenge to do **1,000,000 Acts of Mercy**. In the bulletin as well as at the main entrance of the Church, we have a card which each person or family can fill out. This card allows you to indicate which acts of mercy you have done and how many of each. If you drop them in the collection each week, or get them to the Parish Office, we will keep a tally. For every **1,000 Acts of Mercy**, we will display a **piece of a puzzle** in the Church. Let's see how long it takes us to finish the 1,000,000 Acts of Mercy, and what the puzzle looks like.

As reminder that the love that drove St. Teresa of Calcutta was a love for Jesus, strengthened in *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*. I encourage you to take time with Jesus, to make time for Jesus in the Eucharist. We have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament each day before daily Mass (6:45-7:40am in the Chapel), and on Wednesdays from 8:30-9:30am and 2:00-8:00pm (in the Church), as well as First Fridays from 6:00-7:00pm (in the Chapel). Discover the Fire of Love which shaped St. Mother Teresa and let it refine the love in your heart!