Notre Dame Elementary School

Nurturing Dreams, Excellence and Success

October 25, 2017

Dear Parents,

This letter comes with an invitation to join the NDES Family as we gather at 8:30am in the NDEC Chapel on November 1st to celebrate the Feast of All Saints. On this day, we are reminded of our connectedness to this wide company of believers as well as to recognize that we too are called to be Saints by our Baptism. Holiness is everyone's duty and goal. It is a call to commit our life to following Christ, His teachings and values. Like us, each saint is unique and different, with their own strengths and weaknesses. Some were married, some were priests and religious, some remained single. As professionals some were doctors, lawyers, housewives, teachers, kings/queens. What they did was not that important as HOW they did what they did. Living holy inner lives is the essential purpose of each one of us and the goal of life.

The call to sainthood is a call to lead an authentic life. .. to be all God created us to be. Holiness is for everyone: there are no exceptions. To live a holy life means simply to let our decisions be guided by the Spirit of Jesus. It means allowing each moment to be all it can be as we grow, moment by moment to be better versions of ourselves. This is what Jesus meant when He said, "Be perfect as My Father is perfect." Perfect, meaning be complete and whole as My Father dreamed you to be.

Matthew Kelly in his book, "Rediscover Catholicism", states the following: God wants you to be holy. Your holiness is the desire, the delight of God, and the source of your happiness. To embrace who you were created to be is God's dream for you. Your daily tasks can have spiritual value. You just don't work for money. When you work hard and pay attention to the details of your job, you cooperate with God as He transforms your being. In this way, your work helps you to become more fully yourself. It is also a way to love your neighbor and make a contribution to society. In the same way, washing dishes can be as much a prayer as the rosary. Each task, each hour offered to God can be transformed into a prayer and thereby give glory to our Good God.

What is neat then about the Saints is that they show us all this is possible and can be done! They were the dreamers who imagined themselves being all they could be. They did not let their weaknesses nor those of others hold them back from doing good. They made the impossible – possible. The saints also believed in the goal of living. They believed and lived what was written in the Gospels. Finally, they achieved their goal and that means that so can you and I because the road to holiness begins with simple things: a smile, a helping hand, a prayer... Let's start NOW!

Lovingly in our Good God,,

Sister Carol Merck

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