

“STAYING STRONG”

FINAL PRESENTATION



“I plead with you--never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid.”

St. John Paul II

THE GIFT OF OUR SAINTS

- Everyone should have someone they feel close to and look to as an example. We don't journey alone but are part of something bigger. (Pope Benedict XVI General Audience August 25, 2010)
- We must believe as the saints did that “ His divine power has bestowed on us everything that makes for life and devotion, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and power.” **2 Peter 1:3 (NABRE)**
- The saints put into practice Hebrews 3:13 “Encourage one another while it is still today.”
- They weren't afraid to step out of the boat and didn't play it safe.



WHAT IS HOLINESS?

In this light one can understand even better what holiness means, as well as the universal calling to holiness. Knowing a little about the history of saints, and understanding that in the causes of canonization there is inquiry into “heroic” virtue, we almost inevitably have a mistaken concept of holiness: “It is not for me,” we are led to think, “because I do not feel capable of attaining heroic virtue. It is too high a goal.” Holiness then becomes a thing reserved for some “greats” whose images we see on the altars, and who are completely different from us ordinary sinners. But this is a mistaken notion of holiness, a wrong perception which has been corrected—and this seems to me the central point—precisely by Josemaría Escrivá.

WHAT IS HOLINESS?

Heroic virtue does not mean that the saint performs a type of “gymnastics” of holiness, something that normal people do not dare to do. It means rather that in the life of a person God’s presence is revealed—something man could not do by himself and through himself. Perhaps in the final analysis we are rather dealing with a question of terminology, because the adjective “heroic” has been badly interpreted. Heroic virtue properly speaking does not mean that one has done great things by oneself, but rather that in one’s life there appear realities which the person has not done himself, because he has been transparent and ready for the work of God. Or, in other words, to be a saint is nothing other than to speak with God as a friend speaks with a friend. This is holiness.

HOLINESS

To be holy does not mean being superior to others; the saint can be very weak, with many mistakes in his life. Holiness is this profound contact with God, becoming a friend of God: it is letting the Other work, the Only One who can really make the world both good and happy. And if, then, Josemaría Escrivá speaks of the calling of all to be saints, I think that he is actually referring to this personal experience of his of not having done incredible things by himself, but of having let God work. And thus was born a renewal, a force for good in the world, even if all the weaknesses of mankind will remain ever present. Truly we are all capable, we are all called to open ourselves up to this friendship with God, to not leave the hands of God, to not neglect to turn and return to the Lord, speaking with him as if speaking with a friend, knowing well that the Lord really is a true friend of everyone, including those who cannot do great things by themselves.

A GREAT EXAMPLE FOR US

- Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

HELPFUL THINGS

- Have fellowship with other believers. (1 Peter 5:8)
- Practice Holy Indifference (St. Frances de Sales)
- Pray for meekness and follow the Beatitudes.
- Scripture reading.
- Growth in love and understanding of the Eucharist.



"You know, we're just not reaching that guy."

A FEW LAST THINGS..

- Presentations will be available on www.thegraceofpentecost.com
- Mass is at 11AM.
- Questions/Comments