



Letter from the Pastor

Rev. David Wells



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January 15, 2021

Dear St. Martin's Parishioners,

This Sunday's readings focus on the theme of vocation. Vocation means that God takes the initiative in our lives by calling or inviting us, and we respond to him. All of us have a vocation in common: sainthood. If that sounds beyond our reach, let Pope St. John Paul II's words serve to spur us on and inspire us: "Courageously follow the path of personal holiness and diligently nourish yourselves with the word of God and the Eucharist. The holier you are, the more you can contribute to building up the Church and society." Certainly the Church and society need our witness today! We are all called to states of life which are particular vocations: marriage, holy orders, consecrated life, and single life. In whatever state of life we find ourselves, God calls us to sainthood through the events and circumstances of our daily life. Do not fear, the road to sanctity always involves the way of the cross, self denial, and generous self gift. All of us at one point or another are tempted to discouragement or doubt about our response to God's call. St. John Henry Newman's words are particularly poignant:

God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments. Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about.

COVID Vaccine

I have gotten a few inquiries about the morality of the COVID-19 vaccine. There are a lot of conflicting opinions and information, but the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) have declared that taking the vaccine is morally licit (i.e., there is no sin in taking the vaccine). I encourage anyone looking for further details on the morality of being vaccinated to see the USCCB document:

<https://www.usccb.org/moralconsiderations-covid-vaccines>.

In Christ,
Fr. Dave