

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time  
February 18-19, 2017

*“Be holy, for I am holy”*

Readings: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor. 3:16-23; Matt 5:38-48

“Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy.” As any one of us four kids would head out the door, invariably a few words of wisdom would be shouted from a waving parent. It often could be summed up- “Have a nice time,” followed quickly by “**Be good!**” Being “good” is perhaps in the mind of the beholder, but it was pretty crystal clear as to what it meant in our home. It was certainly an expectation, and yet it was said in a manner that showed forth trust. More often than not, the expectation would be fulfilled.

To be holy, to be good is a tall order and the more we grow in our faith, the more it seems we appreciate this fact. One great way it seems that we can “**be good,**” is to “**do good,**” to share our time, our gifts and talents, and even our treasure for the good of others. It is never easy asking for people’s assistance but in truth, this is a call to join in the mission of the Church. I find that it feels good.

When we feel proud about our faith, we want to share that goodness. Clearly, the opposite is equally true, but now six weeks into a new year, I am feeling confident that my own personal conviction that 2017 would be a much, much better year is already bearing fruit. We have much of which to be proud and the vibrancy of this local Church remains evident to any who choose to see it.

I presided at a prayer service last Tuesday for some Archdiocesan employees who were vacating the Dayton building located on this campus. There was sadness in saying goodbye to the people whom I have come to know and have seen walking back and forth to other buildings. They moved last week to the new space that the Archdiocese is leasing on the East side of St. Paul.

Yes, there is sadness in what led to the sales of properties but also hope in what lies ahead. New beginnings are exciting and I see first hand the good work that is being accomplished in our Church.

The Scriptures today remind us that it is in and through just these kind of experiences that our sanctity is discovered. Today's lesson is crystal clear. "Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy."

Moses spoke to the Israelites, and he speaks to you and me. Lent lies before us, just a little more than one week away. It is time to begin to think about how will we enter into Lent this year. How might God be calling us to grow in holiness? How might he be calling us to share our goodness?

Seventeen different ministries will be helped in some way through your generosity to the Catholic Services Appeal. I hope you have had a chance to consider a gift this year, and reviewed last week's materials in the bulletin. As we did last year, we will take just a few minutes to go through the pledge form. We ought to contribute freely of our own accord. I simply beg your indulgence for few minutes as we complete this year's appeal.