

7th Sunday Ordinary Time "A" *Be holy, for I am holy.*  
Readings: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor. 3:16-23; Matt 5:38-48  
February 22-23, 2020/ Catholic Services Appeal weekend

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.

Performing acts of virtue are perhaps strongest when we do them for another, especially one whom we do not know. I can still recall when my 1<sup>st</sup> grade Montessori class adopted an inner-city Minneapolis parish. We brought gift baskets over to the children. It had never occurred to me that kids my age may not be able to receive gift during the Christmas or Easter holidays. It was an eye opener I will never forget.

The Scriptures today remind us that it is in and through just this type of experience that our sanctity is discovered. Today's lesson is crystal clear. "Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy." How much more the case with those in need; we may legitimately consider the best way to help the poor, what will truly be effective in the long term. Consider the CSA:

Young adults figure prominently in this year's appeal: Saint Paul Outreach, U of M Newman Center. For families who desire a Catholic school but for whom the tuition is out of reach, CSA scholarships make possible an opportunity that otherwise would not have the opportunity.

Do we think often about our brothers and sisters who are ill? Catholic chaplains in the hospitals are vitally important; most institutions no longer pay the freight for Catholic chaplains. Programs that support engaged couples and married couples, the excellent work of the Council of Catholic Women from the Archdiocese. Truly, this year's campaign is broad and carefully considered.

We support life and so to offer support to Abria Pregnancy Resources is a welcome recipient in this year's Appeal. This outstanding organization is saving lives, setting up shop practically across the street from the largest abortion provider in the state of MN. And when women have come to the realization that their lives have been wounded by the decision to have an abortion, we too are there by supporting Rachel's Vineyard, the powerful retreat program designed to bring healing to post-abortive women, many of whom because the very strongest advocates for life.

We need solid young men to study for the priesthood, and desire to support a program of formation that will ensure the best training of those who want to serve with a servant's heart. It cannot be an easy time to be a seminarian, and these men's zeal truly inspires me.

Jesus shows us a better way, the arduous road of forgiveness and overflowing mercy, given freely and in full measure. Let us thank God whom we worship here in Church in the beauty of holiness and seek to return our gifts by assisting those in need. May God graciously accept the work of our hands, offered to His honor and glory.

Envelopes are in the pews, and you will be invited to deposit the sealed CSA envelopes at the time of **your regular Sunday stewardship contribution**. The CSA envelopes are separate from

In 2019, 232 parish households contributed to the Appeal. We hope to improve upon that generosity this year.

The Cathedral parish benefits directly by receiving 50% of all dollars collected after we reach our parish goal. We have consistently been able to reach our goal.

If you are regular visitor today, your willingness to list the Cathedral in your pledge form is deeply appreciated.