

ST. LUCY CATHOLIC CHURCH LOVES AND SERVES GOD.

We: Welcome all • Build relationships • Worship prayerfully • Encourage life-long learning • Reach out in service • Engage others as disciples as Jesus taught.

"Lord, hear our prayer." How much thought or emotion do you and I put into those words at each liturgy? Is it a plea or just a rote response? Perhaps a subtle bit of social justice promotion? A reminder about the parish's sick and dying? Do you really expect prayer to change anything?

Trust. Faith. Prayer. Action. That was John the Baptist's recipe. What's ours?

Do you ever feel as though God is nudging us to do something? Do you and I shy away from taking action out of fear? What would it take to trust in God's way of thinking? Jesus is not shaken by our doubt. He is not offended by our questioning. When we believe in him, and even when we struggle to believe, he loves us. We are always his own, even when we doubt his love.

Yet, Jesus responds to John's disciples making no claim about himself. Instead, he told them what was happening: the one who is lame walks; the leper is cleansed; the one who is deaf hears; and the one believed dead comes to new life. He sums up the Beatitudes saying "Blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

It prods us to see things from a new vantage point, to ask how Jesus, how you and I, understand God's way of seeing things.

Jesus seems to make that clear in his preaching, particularly in his parables. "What person among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it?" Jesus' ministry clearly makes it a priority to reach out to the lost, those who were not in right relationship with God.

Archbishop Vigneron in his pastoral letter *Unleash the Gospel* reminds us that Christ's primary mission must be ours as well. It's easy to lose sight of that mission. So often everything we do in parish life is geared around ministering to the ninety-nine who are in the pews; and if you look around, something's (or rather someone) is missing; our numbers seem to be shrinking.

Unleashing the Gospel means learning how to seek those, whose seats and a place we already have for them, is a priority. "To seek them, invite them, to welcome them, and accompany them on the way of discipleship is the business of every parish member." (*UTG Marker* 8.2)

Consider that one -- the one who is missing, the one not here, the one lost -- that one in your family who is estranged from God, estranged from the family, the one who needs to be invited, welcomed, accompanied as a follower and a disciple of Jesus.

We can all name ONE. Your son or daughter raised in the faith who no longer attends church? Your grandchild who is starting school and has never been baptized? The confirmed young adult who questions everything and simply drifted away? The coworker who seems lost in the ways of the world and just needs someone to walk with him or her on the path of life? The parish member who's been missing from your row since COVID and hasn't returned, and maybe needs somebody to simply call them and who they can count on to be in church once they return? The one who misses receiving the Eucharist, yet still considers going to Mass online now as enough? The one who has lost a loved one, who feels alone and needs support and encouragement? Who is that ONE -- who is living, yet seeks something more, one who needs our prayer and the concern and attention of this faith community?

Use the form on the back and **Pray for the One**. Take the time to write that ONE on the line on the card. Be specific using a first name, or be more generic by identifying the one person as son, cousin, neighbor, co-worker -- you know the individual who is out there; who is on your mind and in your prayer -- and God does too.

Drop the card in the offertory collection basket or return it to the Parish Office. You will probably think of others as time goes on. Others who you hope will return. Additional cards are available, we simply ask that only one person be identified on each card. Through the working of God's Spirit pray that they consider joining us here in Church sometime in the future, perhaps during Holy Week and Easter.

Who and what are we awaiting this season? Let's begin preparing. Who is the ONE whom we pray will be with us here to celebrate at the Lord's table sometime in 2023?