



**Orthodox Church of the  
Entrance of the Theotokos  
into the Temple**

**306 W. Main Street  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727**

**The V. Rev. Elias Yelovich,  
Rector**

<http://EntranceMission.org>

***Everyday Saints***  
**June 11, 2023**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

**Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!**

Today is the First Sunday after Pentecost, the Sunday of All Saints. Today we commemorate all the saints of God, of every time and place, beginning with our first forefather, Abraham, to the very present. Some of those saints are known, some are not. Some have been recognized by the Church, others have not. To be a saint is to be holy, to live in recognition that you have been set apart by God for a purpose, a vocation. You and I received our vocation at Baptism; it was enabled, enlivened at our Chrismation; it has been nourished every time we receive the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's own Body and Blood.

People have often asked me, "Father, help me to discern my vocation." By this they usually mean, "Father, help me to figure out God's plan for me; help me discover what He wants me to do or to be." My response always begins the same way: "It's no secret what He wants you to do or to be! He has revealed it openly to everyone. He gave the Law to all of us on Sinai through Moses; He made a covenant with our family the Church, first through Abraham and then renewed with power and strength through His Only Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ! He revealed His New Commandment openly to all of us through His Holy Apostles – the New Commandment to love as He loves us, to serve rather than to be served; to give freely rather than to expect something to be given to us; to visit the sick, comfort the dying, feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty – both physically and metaphorically to be sure.

Thus, your vocation is clear! But how you choose to practice it, well, that is something that takes time to

discern. What talents have you been given? You need to discern them without pride, and seek to follow the way set before you, the way that is possible through the exercise of your talents.

In general, you see, we who gather here on a Sunday morning in the Name of Christ share the same vocation, for God's revelations are open, clear and need no interpretation. We are called to live as Christ lived – entirely for the benefit of others. We are called to be Christ to our neighbor!

We do not think of Saints as everyday people going about their lives in plain, unassuming ways. We think of them along the lines that we heard in Hebrews today, the truly great ones, martyrs, passion-bearers, heroes of the Faith. Indeed, they are Saints! But their greatness came in time, as they practiced the call described by Jesus in our Gospel lesson from Matthew. Their greatness was nothing other than the greatness of Christ within them. To the extent that they allowed Him in their hearts, to guide and inspire and lead them, they were great. Every one of them began with the practice of living that openly revealed vocation, that call to follow and to be Christ to their neighbor – with no exception.

So, what is an Everyday Saint? First, one who sees that call and responds to it. One who sees through the action of the Holy Spirit that life apart from Him is no life at all, with no hope, no end other than death. It begins with the reception and knowledge of the love of God, given freely, unconditionally, to all whom He has created! It is the reception of that love that leads them to love Him in return, and through Him, to love every creature around him. It is the mother who sees her vocation to nurture her children, the father who supports, provides for and protects his children, the teenage or young man who strives for chastity, because he knows this is what God wants; it is the parent or the child who seeks to obey and to lead and to be an example of the love of Christ in the family, in the workplace, in school, on the playground, in the business meeting. It is one who guides in gentleness, and who understands the burdens of those around him or her and seeks ways to support. It is the one who knows the Will of God, and yet refuses to condemn those who go awry, astray – and who finds the solution to the wrongs of this world not in politics or legalities or culture, but in the Word Made Flesh.

This day is about those people – you and me – who are called to be everyday saints, saints of God, who intercede for the weak and failing, who refuse to judge or condemn, but who weep for those who are ill of body, or mind, or soul. This is whom we commemorate today, and this is for whom we pray – for all of us, that we may fulfill that great vocation given to us all – to be children of God through Jesus Christ! May our Lord, the Holy Spirit, come into each heart here present to inspire us to fulfill our true vocation as Everyday Saints!

To Him be all honor and glory forever! Amen!

Fr. Elias

Orthodox Church of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

306 West Main Street

Emmitsburg, MD 21727

<https://EntranceMission.org>

717-817-0084