

**My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,**

**Forgive me if I ask what I hope is a rhetorical question, “Who here wants to be a Saint?” I call it a rhetorical question because I want to believe the answer is obvious. Hopefully we all want to become Saints.**

**The real question we all have is, “How do I become a Saint?” We sing a song whose refrain is “Saints are just sinners who fall down and get up, fall down and get up. Saints are just sinners who fall down and get up.” While there is great truth in that, it seems to me that saints who appeal to me like St. Peter and St. Paul; St. Joseph and St. Francis; or even great Christians like Thomas Merton and Dorothy Day and Martin Luther King of whom Pope Francis spoke all were more than just “sinners who fell down and got up”. Somehow they knew how to look at life as God sees it. As they lived their lives, they gradually came to the realization that nothing is secular in the world; that everything contributes to the building up of the Kingdom of God.**

**For the saints faith is not only to raise one’s eyes to God to contemplate him; it is also to look at this world and the people in it with Christ’s eyes. It’s that kind of faith which allowed Mother Teresa to see Christ Himself in the people dying in the gutters of Calcutta, and motivated her to care for them as she would the Lord Himself.**

**The saints apparently really were the kind of people who could forget about themselves and allow Christ to penetrate their whole being. In prayer they achieved a purification of self to such an extent that the world was no longer an obstacle to be overcome. Rather, for them, the world became a perpetual incentive to work for the Father in order that, in Christ, his Kingdom might come on earth as it is in heaven.**

**If that’s what it takes to become a saint, we ought to pray to have sufficient faith to know how to look at our lives through the eyes of God.**

**I came across a prayer that speaks to my heart in this regard. If I may, I would like to share it with you:**

**I would like to rise very high, Lord; above my station in life; above this place in which I live; above the world; above time. I would like to purify my glance and borrow your eyes.**

**I would then see the universe, humanity, history, as the Father sees them. I would see in the prodigious transformation of matter, in the perpetual seething of life, Your great Body that is born of the breath of the Spirit. I would see the beautiful, the eternal thought of your Father’s Love taking form, step by step: Everything summed up in you, things on earth and things in heaven.**

**And I would see that today, like yesterday, the most minute details are part of it: Every person in his or her place, every group, every object. I would see an office tower, a church, a town meeting, the construction of a building; I would see the vastness of the oceans, the beauty of the seasons; the twinkling of the stars; I would see a group of young people dancing, a baby being born, and an old man dying; I would see the tiniest particle of matter and the smallest throbbing of life; love and hate; sin and grace. Startled, I would understand that the great adventure of love, which started at the beginning of the world, is unfolding before me. The divine story which, according to your promise, will be completed only in glory after the resurrection of the flesh, when you will come before the Father, saying, "All is accomplished. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I would understand that everything is linked together; that all is but a single movement of the whole of humanity and of the whole universe toward the Trinity, in you, by you, and with you Lord.**

**I would understand that nothing is secular, neither things, nor people, nor events. But that, on the contrary, everything has been made sacred in its origin by God. And that everything must be consecrated by men and women, who have themselves been made divine. I would understand that my life, an imperceptible breath in this great whole, is an indispensable treasure in the Father's plan. Then, falling on my knees, I would admire, Lord, the mystery of this world, which, in spite of the innumerable and hateful snags of sin, is a long throb of love towards Love Eternal, who is your Father and mine.**

**I would like to rise very high, Lord, above my station in life; above the place in which I live; above the world; above time. I would like to purify my glance and borrow your eyes.**

**Yes, I believe the saints borrowed the eyes of Christ that allowed them to see as he saw that led them to embrace poverty of spirit; comfort the mourning; walk with humility; hunger and thirst for righteousness; be forgiving and single-hearted; be peacemakers; and endure evil, insults, lies, and persecution for the sake of the Kingdom of God.**

**Yes, Lord! I would like to rise very high, Lord, above my station in life; above the place in which I live; above the world; above time. I would like to purify my glance and borrow your eyes. Yes, Lord! I want to be a Saint!**