

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

Who is “Goody Two-Shoes?” This question came to me as I was thinking about writing a column on saints. So, to find the answer to this important question, I got on the internet and did a Google search for “Goody Two-Shoes.” The Wikipedia entry states the following: “*The History of Little Goody Two-Shoes*” is a children's story by an anonymous author, published in 1765. The story is the origin of the popular phrase “goody two-shoes,” often used to describe an “excessively or annoyingly virtuous person.”

In short, Goody Two-Shoes was that girl in everyone's sixth grade class who always did everything perfectly. She was the teacher's pet and held up as an example to the rest of us less than perfect kids. As a consequence we all secretly hoped bad things would happen to her.

You may be wondering what all this has to do with saints, who of course we honor in a special way in November, the month of All Saints and All Souls. “Goody Two-Shoes” came to my mind because I think that when a lot of people hear that we are all called to be saints they have a vision of that girl in their sixth grade class who was “an excessively or annoyingly virtuous person.” And since nobody wants to be Goody Two-Shoes, the idea of being a saint may not seem so attractive to us.

However, being a saint does not mean being “annoyingly virtuous.” Actually, the old Army recruiting slogan sums up the idea very well. Being a saint means “being all you can be.” The Lord has a vision of what each of us can be like. The Lord sees each one of us as filled with love based on our trust in Him. But His vision for our lives can only happen if we surrender our wills to Him and allow Him to transform us. When this happens, we become the saints that He calls each of us to be. Filled with love and trust, we will have a Christ-like compassion which reaches out to others and which hates to see anyone suffer, even Goody Two-Shoes.

It has rightly been said that the only real tragedy in life is not becoming a saint. Not allowing the Lord's vision for our lives to become a reality. Not being all we can be by His grace. During the month of November the Church calls us to give thanks for the Saints in Heaven and to pray for the Souls in Purgatory, who are almost there. We are also called to pray for the grace we need to become the saints the Lord wants each of us to be.

With my prayers,

Fr. Conley