



Reflection from Fr. Don Farnan

This weekend, Saint James Parish celebrates its 116th birthday and Saint Therese hosts the celebration of Saint Louis' feast day. Amid the milestones of another year, we offer gratitude for the 100 years of service and worship that Saint Louis Parish offered to our city and diocese. It did so in challenging times and bountiful times, and with deep love. As parishioners find their new spiritual home, we give thanks for the holy men and women who walked by faith through the neighborhoods of Town Fork Creek and made Kansas City a better place by their presence and because they took to heart the task of living and advancing the Gospel as God's humble children.

Last Sunday's scriptural verses told of God's plan to gather the nations, tribes, and people from all directions and bring them to His kingdom of grace. This Sunday, we are reminded to live in humility. Saint Therese once wrote about humility in these words: *"If a little flower could speak, it seems to me that it would tell us quite simply all that God has done for it without hiding any of its gifts. It would not, under the pretext of humility, say that it was not pretty or that it didn't have a sweet scent. It would also not pretend that the sun had not withered its petals or the storm had not bruised its stem. It would appear as it is in true humility and gratitude."*

Her words might be a good reminder to us for how we are to act as long as we have life and to remember that we are forever connected to those who have gone before us. As we consider those, from all directions, whom God has gathered to himself in the heavenly kingdom, those saints of the church like James, the apostle, Louis, the king, Therese, the little flower, and those friends and fellow parishioners who have been marked with the sign of faith, let us give thanks for their passing our way and leaving us a legacy to follow. Let us imitate their humility with gratitude for all that has been given to us, for that which has faded away from us, and for that which remains with us. I am very proud of our parishes that celebrate God's message of good news in our worship and in our actions that build up the City of God here on earth and here in Kansas City.

Enjoy the feast day and the birthday and keep doing what we are here to do: continue His blessed mission in humility.

*Blessings,
Fr. Don*