

Dear Parishioners,

It is with great joy that I express what a privilege it is for me to serve Saints Simon & Jude Cathedral as your Rector. I appreciate deeply the welcome you have extended to me and I look forward to leading you in our quest for sainthood. Yes, I said our quest for sainthood! You were created for nothing less than this.

As the Year for Priests winds down, I ask you to continue to pray for your priests and also that the hearts of Catholic parents will be touched by the Holy Spirit to encourage their sons (both young and not so young) to consider the beautiful vocation to the priesthood.

Prior to entering the seminary, I lived a life immersed in what the world tells us we need in order to be happy and fulfilled—relationships, material success and career success. In my case, I found that I was not “wired” for this life. No matter how much success I experienced, I kept asking myself, “Is this all there is??”

When I moved from Seattle to Phoenix in 2000, I began to sense something profound happening in my life...I was being called by the Lord to the priesthood. I have come to discover first-hand that each of us is not only called to become a saint, but to do so in a particular way, through a particular vocation—some are called to priesthood, some to marriage, some to the consecrated religious life (religious brothers, religious sisters and nuns), some to the consecrated single life. Each of us has a unique call. To find the joy and fulfillment the Lord intends for each one of us requires a shift from the question “What do I want?” to “What does Jesus want me to do?” Discernment of our vocation means answering the second question—with the Lord’s help, of course. So ask this question frequently. And parents...teach your children to ask this question!

My intention is to use this bulletin “letter” to address different aspects of our Catholic faith—everything from apologetics, to liturgy, to catechesis, to discernment of vocations. Since the celebration of the Holy Mass is the central act of our faith, I hope, especially, to help you enter more deeply into the Sacred liturgy and to deepen your understanding of the Mass.

Be assured of my gratitude to the Lord for calling me to Saints Simon & Jude, and my prayers for you and your families that we will all grow together in holiness.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Lankeit