



St. Therese Catholic Church

901 N. Tahoe Trail

Sioux Falls, SD 57110-5779

(605) 338-2433

Fax (605) 339-2203

ONE STEP

By: Father O'Dell

“The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.” All of us have heard this ancient proverb many times before. I can remember the nuns in grade school using this as a prompt to get us busy about starting some special project or other that we had been assigned to complete. My father would repeat this proverb to encourage my siblings and myself to start some task that we were not particularly thrilled about having to do. I can remember the rector of the seminary talking about the “long road to the priesthood” and “how the journey of a thousand miles begins with just one step.” In other words, eight years and ordination may seem like a long way off, but the road shortens with each step you take.

I think that this proverb also applies in my faith life, too. Sometimes I look at a life of virtue, devotion and Christian commitment and it seems a long way off. I know well my own shortcomings and I know how difficult they can be to overcome. I know that I have “started over” a thousand times and it seems like I keep ending up in the same place. I wonder how I will ever be able to travel this long road of Christian morality and end up on the right track to Heaven. Truth be told, we all probably wonder this.

It is a fact that living the Christian life is a lofty goal. It is also a task that demands dependability, reliability and good old fashioned hard work. The road to completion is a long and arduous trail. Knowing this we can sometimes get discouraged and lose faith that we will ever get there. When we feel this way we need to remember the old proverb, “the journey of a thousand miles begins with just one step.” So I want to share a few “first steps” with you today that may make the road a little bit easier.

First, know that our real dilemma in life is coming to an understanding that attaining a pious and good life takes power of an extraordinary kind to accomplish. No worries though, God has all power and will go to any length to share that power with us. His power is called **grace**, and it freely flows into us if we just “plug in” to the Lord. The first step then, in making our journey is making sure that we are plugged in and stay connected to God. Don’t wander away and become disconnected. Make sure that your “cord” is securely attached to the power source and that it stays firmly in place.

Second, understand that the only way that we can learn how to live a virtuous life is to do it in little increments. We need to **practice** the way of virtue every single day of our lives – and each step we take through which we grow in virtue and goodness leads us closer to the end point. Don’t expect to wake up one morning and suddenly become more charitable, or honest or generous. Don’t think that you can just wish yourself into greater levels of chastity, kindness or gentleness. These things take a lot of work and practice. The more you practice virtues every single day of your life, the better you get at them, and the closer you get to your goal of going home in glory to the Lord.

Third, know that there are a lot of steps to be taken to walk a thousand miles, but there are a lot of resting spots along the road, too. There is the resting spot of the joy you feel when you live up to your vocation to follow Christ. Joy literally revitalizes us. There is the rest stop called prayer where we get physically and spiritually strengthened to continue our journey. There is the “green pasture” of solid Christian fellowship that gives us the peace of companionship to share the long road. There are the park benches that we encounter that give us the place to sit and contemplate where Christ wishes us to go in the next thousand steps. There are plenty of rest stops, use them.

Fourth, always keep in mind that what lies at the end of the road makes the journey worthwhile. When we feel discouraged or dejected because the road seems never ending – remember that Jesus promised us that He would show us the way – that He has in store for us at the end of the road, delights beyond our wildest dreams. In other words, keep on trucking, the end result is worth the work.

October 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| | | 1 Solemnity of St. Therese 10:00am St Margaret's Fellowship 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Crochet Group 3:30pm Catechesis of the Good Shepherd | 2 9:30am Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother 6:00pm Rel Ed K-5th 7:15pm Rel Ed 6th-8th | 3 6:00am Men's Group 9:15am Mary, Morning Star Bible Study 1:00pm Rosary at Edgewood Vista 6:00pm Legion of Mary | 4 7:00am Daily Mass 8:30am First Friday Social - Change for this Friday Only 9:30am First Friday Mass - Change for this Friday Only | 5 8:00am Daily Mass 3:00pm Confessions 4:00pm Vigil Mass |
| 6 8:00am Confessions 8:30am Mass 10:15am Confessions 10:45am Mass - w/Adult Choir 2:00pm Life Chain on 41st Street | 7 8:00am Daily Mass 8:30am Rosary 6:30pm Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother 7:00pm Sacred Heart of Jesus Faith Sharing Group | 8 8:00am Daily Mass 8:30am Respect Life Rosary 10:00am St Margaret's Fellowship 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Crochet Group 3:30pm Catechesis of the Good Shepherd 6:30pm Bingo at Pasque Meadows 6:30pm KC Officer Mtg 7:00pm KC General Mtg | 9 8:00am Daily Mass 8:30am Rosary 9:30am Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother 6:00pm Rel Ed K-5th 7:15pm Rel Ed 6th-8th | 10 Liturgical Ministry Requests Due 6:00am Men's Group 8:00am Daily Mass 8:30am Rosary 9:15am Mary, Morning Star Bible Study 6:00pm Legion of Mary | 11 7:00am Daily Mass | 12 Confirmation Bake Sale after All Masses 8:00am Daily Mass 3:00pm Confessions 4:00pm Vigil Mass |
| 13 Confirmation Bake Sale after All Masses 8:00am Confessions 8:30am Mass 10:15am Confessions 10:45am Mass - w/Adult Choir | 14 Columbus Day 8:00am Daily Mass 8:30am Rosary 6:30pm Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother | 15 8:00am Daily Mass 8:30am Respect Life Rosary 10:00am St Margaret's Fellowship 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Crochet Group 3:30pm Catechesis of the Good Shepherd 6:30pm Finance Council Meeting | 16 8:00am Daily Mass 8:30am Rosary 6:00pm Rel Ed K-5th 7:15pm Rel Ed 6th-8th | 17 6:00am Men's Group 8:00am Daily Mass 8:30am Rosary 9:15am Mary, Morning Star Bible Study 1:00pm Rosary at Washington Crossing 6:00pm Legion of Mary | 18 7:00am Daily Mass | 19 KC Coats for Kids Collection 8:00am Daily Mass 3:00pm Confessions 4:00pm Vigil Mass |
| 20 City Wide End of LIFE seminar KC Coats for Kids Collection 8:00am Confessions 8:30am Mass - w/ Praise Singers from St Lambert School 9:30am Praise Singers Donuts, Juice & Coffee 10:15am Confessions 10:45am Mass - w/Adult Choir | 21 6:30pm Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother | 22 Pastoral Council Meeting TBA - please call the office with questions 10:00am St Margaret's Fellowship 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Crochet Group 3:30pm Catechesis of the Good Shepherd | 23 9:00am Stuff & Mail Newsletter 9:30am Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother 6:00pm Rel Ed K-5th 7:15pm Rel Ed 6th-8th | 24 6:00am Men's Group 9:15am Mary, Morning Star Bible Study 6:00pm Legion of Mary | 25 7:00am Daily Mass | 26 Bishop Paul Swain (Ordained 10/26/2006) 8:00am Daily Mass 3:00pm Confessions 4:00pm Vigil Mass |
| 27 8:00am Confessions 8:30am Mass 10:15am Confessions 10:45am Mass | 28 8:00am Daily Mass 8:30am Rosary 6:30pm Little Flower Faith Sharing Group 6:30pm Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother | 29 8:00am Daily Mass 8:30am Respect Life Rosary 10:00am St Margaret's Fellowship 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Crochet Group 3:30pm Catechesis of the Good Shepherd 7:00pm Dr. Chris Burgwald & Fr. O'Dell: Presentation on the Demonic & Exorcisms (Part 1) | 30 8:00am Daily Mass 8:30am Rosary 9:30am Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother 6:00pm Rel Ed K-5th 7:15pm Rel Ed 6th-8th | 31 Halloween 6:00am Men's Group 8:00am Daily Mass 8:30am Rosary 9:15am Mary, Morning Star Bible Study 7:00pm Vigil of All Saints Mass | | |