



## *Gaudete Et Exsultate – December Reflection*

**“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
and before you were born I consecrated you.” –Jeremiah 1:5**

“Contemplate the holiness present in the patience of God’s people, in those parents who raise their children with immense love, in those men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick... very often it is a holiness found in our next-door neighbors, those who, living in our midst, reflect God’s presence. ‘Each in his or her own way’ the Council says. We should not grow discouraged before examples of holiness that appear unattainable. There are some testimonies that may prove helpful and inspiring, but that we are not meant to copy, for that could even lead us astray from the one specific path that the Lord has in mind for us. **The important thing is that each believer discern his or her own path, that they bring out the very best of themselves, the most personal gifts that God has placed in their hearts** (cf. *1 Cor.* 12:7), rather than hopelessly trying to imitate something not meant for them. We are all called to be witnesses, but there are many actual ways of bearing witness. This should excite and encourage us to give our all and to embrace that unique plan that God willed for each of us from eternity.”

–APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION *GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE*, OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON THE CALL TO HOLINESS IN TODAY’S WORLD, adapted from Chapter One, Paragraphs 7, 11, & 13.

*All are invited to share or reflect on the highlighted area below, or on the paragraph itself.*

God gave each of us the ability to live a life of holiness. Has your path been straight or has it consisted of twists and turns?

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Loving God, you blessed us in your holiness.

When we feel lost, help us to listen for your voice.

Give us the grace to be inspired and to inspire others.

Give us the enthusiasm to find our own way

and the confidence to know that your plan will pull us forward.

Keep us steady on our path, our eyes on our destination until we stand before you.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.