



Gaudete Et Exsultate – January Reflection

“Lord, I am a poor sinner, but you can work the miracle of making me a little bit better”.

“To be holy does not require being a bishop, a priest or a religious. We are frequently tempted to think that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer. That is not the case. We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves. Are you called to the consecrated life? Be holy by living out your commitment with joy. Are you married? Be holy by loving and caring for your husband or wife, as Christ does for the Church. Do you work for a living? Be holy by laboring with integrity and skill in the service of your brothers and sisters. Are you a parent or grandparent? Be holy by patiently teaching the little ones how to follow Jesus. Are you in a position of authority? Be holy by working for the common good and renouncing personal gain.

Let the grace of your baptism bear fruit in a path of holiness. Let everything be open to God; turn to him in every situation. Do not be dismayed, for the power of the Holy Spirit enables you to do this, and holiness, in the end, is the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life (cf. *Gal 5:22-23*). In the Church, holy yet made up of sinners, you will find everything you need to grow towards holiness. **The Lord has bestowed on the Church the gifts of scripture, the sacraments, holy places, living communities, the witness of the saints** and a multifaceted beauty that proceeds from God’s love, “like a bride bedecked with jewels” (*Is 61:10*).

-APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION *GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE*, OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON THE CALL TO HOLINESS IN TODAY’S WORLD, adapted from Chapter One, Paragraphs 14 & 15.

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

In what specific way do you think you are called to holiness?

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

Loving God, at baptism we became your adopted sons and daughters, sharers of divine life, and temples of the Holy Spirit.

Strengthen us to overcome obstacles and avoid sin.
Help us to find the holiness in who we are and what we do.

Make our path one of a joyful daily witness.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.