



My Dear Parishioners,

Greetings Everyone! This week, the Church around the world celebrates the Week of Christian Unity as we celebrate both the Conversion of St. Paul and St. Francis DeSales. Given the closeness of St. Francis DeSales to our parish, i.e. the ministry of the Oblates to our parish, I'd like to share some info about him. Like St. Paul, he was a man who knew conversion. And like us, he lived in terribly divided times both in and outside of the Church. May His intercession, Wisdom and Counsel, guide us as we pray for conversion of heart and God's Unity for our country and our newly elected leaders.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

Golden Counsels of St. Francis DeSales

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St Francis de Sales was Bishop of Geneva and was noted for his deep faith and his gentle approach to the religious divisions resulting from the Protestant Reformation. He was known for his writings on spiritual direction and formation, particularly the Introduction to the Devout Life and the Treatise on the Love of God. He is the patron saint of writers and journalists.

- 1) **Peace**. Remain in peace; rid your imagination of whatever troubles you. The first thing in the morning, prepare your heart to be at peace. "To the person who is faithful in little things, greater ones will be given."
- 2) **Patience**. Be patient with everyone, but above all with yourself; I mean, don't be disturbed about your imperfections, and always have the courage to pick yourself up after a fall. "Do all you can to develop a spirit of compassion."
- 3) **Confidence**. A thousand times a day cast your whole heart, your soul, your anxiety on God with great confidence, and say with the psalmist: "I am yours, Lord; save me." Do not fear future evil in this world, for perhaps it will never come.
- 4) **Perseverance**. We must apply ourselves to doing well the stretch of road immediately before us on the first day of the journey, and not waste time wanting to do the last lap of the way while we still have to make it through the first. "Our imperfections must die with us, a little each day."
- 5) **Devotion**. Ordinary people walk along the path of God; devout people run; very devout people fly. "Times of prayers must become so much a part of our day that we never omit them except out of great necessity."
- 6) **Suffering**. Your cross comes to you; embrace it and caress it for the love of the one who sends it. Suffering is a divine favor. "Because it is you, I say nothing. I accept it; I receive it; I honor it."
- 7) **Hope and Love**. Hope is the opposite of fear. It is serious to feel separated from God; we grow timid and weak. We must try to keep our hearts continually, unshakably serene throughout the vicissitudes of life. Even though everything turns and changes around us, we must ever remain steady - always looking, striving, and aspiring toward God. "Cast you care upon the Lord and he will support you." "If we belong to God, who shall separates us from the love and charity of God?"