

Reflection for Day Five

For two centuries, St. Louis has played an important role in evangelization. This story does not end with the missionaries whose efforts led to the founding of the Diocese of St. Louis in 1826. It has been carried on by generations of St. Louisans since: by the men and women who sacrificed to build the churches and schools of our community, by the artists and architects who lent their talents to spreading the Gospel, by the holy souls of uncommon courage like St. Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne and Cardinal Ritter who cared for those that society sought to reject.

So, as we look ahead to the next hundred years, let us be sure to ask our Lord to give us this same evangelistic spirit that guided the saintly men and women who came before us.

May God grant us clarity of heart and mind, that we understand God's word in our own lives. May God grant charity, that we may preach the Gospel with kindness and love. And may God grant us courage, that we may bear unflinching witness to the truth, even when it is difficult or unpopular to do so.

Let us pray...

O my Jesus, you have said, "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you." You know the deepest longings of my heart. You know the burdens that I carry. Behold, I come before You now, asking only this: make me a saint.

In the midst of sanctifying trials, heed not my complaints, but remind me of eternity with You and give me courage. I give You my life, that every good gift You have given me be rendered back to You—for Your glory, for my sanctity, and for the good of Your Holy Church.

Thank you for the saints who built Your Church in St. Louis—those we know and honor, and those whose lives remain hidden in You. Transform our hearts, that we who have been entrusted to this Archdiocese, may one day merit to join them.

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, we place our trust in you!

(Conclude with one Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be)