

Ordinary Saints Talks. 10/27/2019

7:45 AM: Gary Felicetti. Gary did not write his talk, and is sorry you missed it.

9:00 Michelle Eavey

When I read the bulletin asking for volunteers to speak about an ordinary saint who touched your life, I thought hey! This is my chance!! This is my chance to share publicly how much my ordinary saints mean to me and how much they have impacted the lives of myself and my family. So, here goes.

My ultimate ordinary saint is my Big MaMa. She was my spiritual advisor from the time I was young to well into adulthood. All questions about God, religion, love.. went to her. I am forever grateful to her for being there, sharing her knowledge and love of God.

Just after Big MaMa, the names of ordinary saints flooded through me and I realized they all had one thing in common – St David's. They are all saints in my eyes and have had a powerful impact on my life. I had to limit this speech to minutes, so I call out just a few of the many. I know the names will come of no surprise to anyone who knows them.

Kathy Love has a genuine, never ending love for our children; regardless of their age. She has been able to make a connection with both my extreme introvert AND my wiggly, in your face boys. She has played an enormous role in helping them know what the love of God and Jesus feel like. In my eyes, this is the biggest display of God's love and the truest sign of an "ordinary saint".

As most know, I was diagnosed with breast cancer this past November. First off, I am all good now and, thank God, everything was caught VERY early and the treatment I underwent was nothing compared to what most experience. While I often silently struggle mentally with fears and thoughts of recurrence, thanks to Zumba and tennis I physically am stronger and back at it!

But this leads me to the ordinary saints who have impacted my life...

The Todds – Not long ago Carol told me she and Mac are just regular people who put their pants on one leg at a time. While I believe they put their pants on one leg at a time, I respectfully disagree that they are regular people. Carol was one of the first outreaches I made to share what was going on and ask for prayers. I knew she would hold tight my secret and pray for me. That was, and still is, exactly what I needed. The regular checkups on me and the quality time we have spent together show me the impact of loving others.

Mac Todd is a man who embraces you with his whole heart. Healing Sunday happened just before my bilateral mastectomy and I went to the front like as I've done many times. When it was my turn, I wanted Mac Todd to do the healing prayer however, he had just done the person next to me. I knew he would not typically do the very next person. Mac Todd, who at the time

was undergoing his own medical issues, said to his partner Lay Uctioner, “I would like to do Michelle, please.” He had no idea how badly I wanted him to be the one to give me healing prayers. As he put the oil on my forehead and said the prayer, I felt the love of God throughout my entire body. Note, this was also the one time Hanby came to the front with me and placed his hand on my shoulder. Needless to say, I had to excuse myself to the hall immediately after the prayer.

Adrian and Rita da Rosa – Before I knew what level of treatment would be needed, I was terrified of chemo. I tried to play this off but I, and Hanby, knew how scared I was. I shared my fears with Adrian and his (tries to be hard) face softened. Trying to lighten the tone, I asked him if I lost my hair would he shave his head and take a picture with me to show support. He didn’t think twice and said of course he would. And he meant it. The next Sunday Rita came to me and shared she was also ok with him going bald, should the need arise. Neither of them knew how much that meant to me now and then.

And the most treasured display of comfort through Christ came when I was about to be wheeled back for my surgery and Pastor Elizabeth reminded me that I was not alone. That Jesus had not left my side and gave me countless signs he was with me. This reminder of the love of Christ and protection over me gave me strength in that moment that I so needed to feel.

Trina telling me how beautiful I am and how much she loves seeing my family serve on Sundays, Marti Stephens-Hartka lending a comforting shoulder and the PaPa Bear protection I felt from both Allen Cersley & Mike Santoro are again, just a few examples of the ordinary saints in my life.

Everyone at St David’s has shown us unconditional love and support and I know that comes through our shared love of Christ.

As a wise 10 year old said on Youth Sunday, St. David’s is where I belong. Thank you to all of the extraordinary, ordinary saints at St David’s for having such a powerful, positive impact on the life of myself and my family.

11:15: No participant