

## GLORIFYING GOD WITH OUR LIVES...

There's a cashier at Aldi's who puts a smile on my face every time I interact with her. She's cheerful, helpful, focuses all of her attention on me and leaves me with a "have a blessed day" as we finish our transaction. I truly feel blessed by those few moments with her. She does nothing dramatic, but her simple actions make a big difference for me and, I'm sure, for her other customers. Maybe this is what the new dismissal from Mass means when we are told "Go in peace, glorifying God with your lives."

I thought of this too, when I got a Facebook video from my six-year-old grandson singing "Praise him, praise him, all you little children, God is love, God is love." It's a simple childish act, but one, I'm sure that gives glory to God.

My mom is in a nursing home after having fallen and broken her hip. It's not anything she would have chosen, but the tender care of the aides makes her feel important and cared about. They have such a good relationship that she wanted to make sure that "the girls" came down and joined her for a piece of cake at her 93rd birthday party. The nurse who cares regularly cares for her is never too busy to answer our questions. She treats us and mom as if we were the only people she is caring for. I think she sees Jesus in her patients.

Mother Teresa talked about the importance not of doing great things, but doing ordinary things with great love—glorifying God with the every-day. And there are so many people who bless us with these simple acts of love.

I think of the neighborhood man who joins us at Mass and enters into the worship with his whole body. There's the elderly Italian lady who "glorifies God" with her pineapple upside-down cake, the family that without fanfare brings food for the pantry each Sunday, those coming to the food pantry who offer to help each other carry bags of groceries and the community services coordinator at the Villages at Roll Hill who shares the bounty of fresh produce she receives.. There's the family of our oldest parishioner who recently died, who continue to bring treasures from her home to share with her St. Leo family. There's a parishioner who quietly offers a helping hand wherever it's needed, who taught the youth how to film and helped them create a documentary of their families' lives in the refugee camps, who transports our farmers to the garden, and brings people to church.

Our partner parishes also bless us and "glorify" God with their often quiet service—the volunteers who regularly help out at the pantry, those who come to help with ESL on Monday evenings, and the young adults who faithfully come each Sunday to share faith with our children in the children's liturgy of the word program.

Not to be forgotten are the parishioners who share their gifts through music ministry, cleaning the church, beautifying the grounds with flowers, checking in on those who are sick, or quietly praying for those in need. Our prayer and worship on Sunday join us together and surely delight God, but I think our daily "glorifying" through small acts of living out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy puts an even bigger grin on God's face.

- Angela Anno, Pastoral Associate