



A weekly reflection by members
of the Precious Blood Community

June 10, 2026

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Finding My Holiness

“Do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord,
he saved us and called us to a holy life.”
2 Timothy 1:8



In Paul’s letter to Timothy, he writes, “Do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord; *he saved us and called us to a holy life*”.

Most days I feel wholly unholy, but this message in Paul’s letter is for me: Quit being so sinful. Stop being so selfish. Try to be more loving. Quit expecting more and giving less. Take up the cross of a crying baby in the middle of the night. Take up the cross of a disloyal friend or family member. Take up the cross of an angry customer or boss or employee. Take up the cross of a neglected/neglecting spouse. Take up the cross of an unlovable teenager. Take up the cross of poor health. Take up the cross of financial hardship. Take up the cross of disappointment and heartache. Carry those crosses and still love God. Carry those crosses and still love your neighbor. Carry those crosses and still love yourself. Carry those crosses and discover your holiness.

On the surface, holy people are kind of easy to identify. They're the ones that pray at a drop of a hat; that always remember to thank God for everything – even the lousy stuff (supposedly it makes us thankful for everything else); they go to church always; they are kind to everyone. They are unflinching in their belief. So, I get it: holy people are made in God's image.

But we're all made in God's image, so that includes me. Me? What about my limited ability to love? What about the times I'm not so sure that God even exists? Or if He or She does exist, where's their relevance in my life? This idea that I'm made in God's image is a radical concept – God should be way cooler than me; more loving; more calm; wiser; more everything!

It's much easier to see God in others – the friend that listened to my heartache and didn't judge me; the co-worker that prayed with me when my son was deployed to Iraq; the spouse that loves me enough to let me be the person that I have always wanted to be; the children that accept the fact that "I did my best" in raising them.

In his book, *Through Seasons of the Heart*, John Powell writes, "*There's an old Christian tradition that God sends each person into this world with a special message to deliver, a special song to sing for others, a special act of love to bestow.*"

So maybe I need to stop looking for God in the clouds. Stop searching for God in books and laws. Look at the person next to me. Look in the mirror. Sometimes it just takes a second look to recognize my own holiness. And I should sing my song even if it's off-key!

As we attempt to serve God by serving one another, we are served the ultimate gift – Life in Christ. There we find our holiness.

Denis Wilhelm is a Partner in Mission with the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon, Missouri. To learn more about the Partners in Mission, [click here](#).

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