

Dear Padre,

I understand that all Catholics, not just priests and religious, are called to holiness. How can laypeople become holy?

The five elements of holiness are the same for all the baptized, always in the context of their vocational calling.

Prayer: In the liturgy, we join our sisters and brothers to offer communal worship where we are nourished and formed by word and sacrament. In private prayer, we maintain, clarify, and nourish our relationship with God.

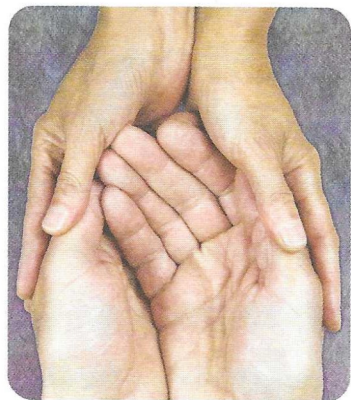
Love of neighbor: We are called to treat others with the acceptance and respect that God has for each person. Every person is our neighbor, especially people in need (Matthew 25:40).

Living one's vocational commitment: Being faithful to a spouse in marriage, working for family harmony, staying true to dedicated singleness in the world or in the religious community setting—all are avenues of holiness.

Penance and self-discipline: The Christian life demands self-denial, control, and sacrifice. Christians must deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow Jesus (Luke 9:23).

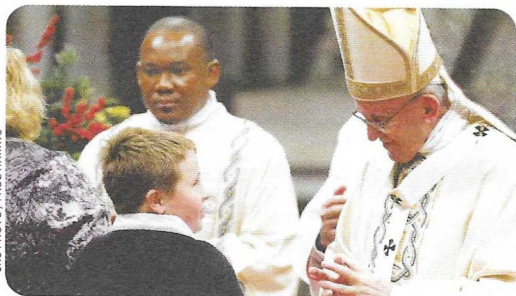
Reaching out in discipleship: Holiness also comes from and finds its noblest expression in a life of service and ministry. Baptism initiates us into the fullness of Christian reality, which ultimately means discipleship—sharing our faith and serving others, especially the most needy.

For laypeople, the main arena of holiness is where they live, work, play, and struggle every day. It is there that they must proclaim “the kingdom of God is in our midst,” and answer their call to holiness. ●



NIKINZALEWSKI / SHUTTERSTOCK

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A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

As we begin this new year, let us ask ourselves...

Do I know how to look at people with the heart?

Do I take to heart the people with whom I live?...

Let us ask for the grace to live this year with the desire to take others to heart and to care for them.

HOMILY, VATICAN, JANUARY 1, 2020

MONDAY

January 2
Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

1 Jn 2:22–28
Jn 1:19–28

TUESDAY

January 3
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:29–3:6
Jn 1:29–34

WEDNESDAY

January 4
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
1 Jn 3:7–10
Jn 1:35–42

THURSDAY

January 5
St. John Neumann, Bishop
1 Jn 3:11–21
Jn 1:43–51

FRIDAY

January 6
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:5–13
Mk 1:7–11

SATURDAY

January 7
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:14–21
Jn 2:1–12

SUNDAY

January 8
Epiphany of the Lord
Is 60:1–6
Eph 3:2–3, 5–6
Mt 2:1–12

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