We often imagine the saints as dour-faced, severe individuals—people who took life very seriously and rarely smiled. Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati would have surprised us. He was a young man who lived in early twentieth-century Italy. He loved hiking in the mountains, the company of his friends, and a good practical joke. He laughed readily and brought joy to the people around him.

We know what it is like to live with economic uncertainty and deep divisions in society. Pier Giorgio did, too. Italy emerged from World War I in a severe economic crisis, with widespread unrest and an uncertain future. Poverty and anxiety were all around him.

Pier Giorgio came from a well-connected family, but the money at his own disposal was limited. He could have focused on what he lacked and held tightly to what he had. Instead, he began with what God had given him: faith, friendship, strength, time, and something to share. His resources had limits, but God's generosity did not. Trusting in that generosity, he saw how much he had to offer—and placed it at the service of others. Rather than adopting an attitude of scarcity, he chose to see abundance.

He shared his money, his clothing, his time, and his strength. He visited people who were sick, helped struggling families, and entered homes that others

preferred to avoid. These people became his friends. Their needs became his concern.

Pier Giorgio's life was rooted in prayer and the Eucharist. He knew that everything he had—even his next breath—was a gift from God. And because he knew himself to be loved, he could go out and love others. Pier Giorgio made his decisions aware of God's abundance rather than his own scarcity. He could see the needs around him without concluding that he had nothing to offer. He trusted that God could work through whatever he placed in God's hands.

To be poor in spirit is to recognize our dependence upon God. Our possessions, our abilities, our accomplishments—all of them have their place. But none of them can give us the security that comes from belonging to him.

On this Solemnity of All Saints, we celebrate what God's abundant grace can accomplish in ordinary human lives. We also remember that he calls each of us to become a saint: here, in the life we actually have, with our responsibilities, our limitations, and the people he has entrusted to us.

God is inviting us to share in his mission here. Through this parish, people hear the Gospel, receive the sacraments, learn to pray, find companionship in sorrow, and receive help in times of need. Children come to know Jesus.

Adults discover or rediscover their faith. The sick are visited. Families are supported. Your generosity helps make that possible.

Thank you for your heroic generosity. Thank you for the sacrifices that often remain unseen. Thank you for the offertory contributions you are making this year.

As you saw in last week's bulletin, we finished the last fiscal year strong. Your generosity made a real difference. This year, I need everyone's support to do the same.

I know that you have financial responsibilities of your own. You are paying bills, raising children, caring for family members, and planning for the future. Some of you are living on fixed incomes. Some are facing real financial uncertainty.

Those concerns deserve prayerful, responsible attention. Trust in God's providence belongs within that discernment. It does not mean that every financial difficulty will disappear. It means that we can bring our needs and our decisions to a Father who loves us—and ask how he is calling us to respond.

The needs of our parish are real as well. Today's bulletin gives you more information about where your contributions go. Let me offer just two examples.

The annual cost of salaries and benefits for our clergy—three full-time priests, one full-time deacon, and one part-time deacon—is approximately $450,000.

Our annual maintenance and facilities costs are approximately $800,000. That includes salaries and benefits for our maintenance staff and crew, landscaping, heating and air-conditioning maintenance, police officers who provide security, electricity, general repairs, and our property insurance through Catholic Mutual.

I also have a responsibility to use your gifts carefully. I continually review our expenses, especially salaries, which are our largest expense overall. Since arriving as pastor three and a half years ago, I have eliminated six staff positions through reductions in force and by leaving positions unfilled after retirements. Those decisions affect people, and I take them seriously. We have a lean, hardworking staff. I am proud of them, and I am deeply grateful for their dedication to this parish.

But stewardship reaches deeper than meeting a budget. We give because our parish needs our support. We also give because we need to grow in generosity. Giving changes our hearts. It helps loosen the grip that possessions and the desire for security can have on us. It teaches us to receive everything with gratitude and to place our lives more fully in God’s hands.

A sacrificial gift makes room for God within the priorities we already have. It is a prayer expressed through a decision: “Lord, everything I have comes from you. Help me trust you. Help me use your gifts well.” We give out of our own need to grow closer to him.

Jesus teaches us that our hearts follow our treasure. We often think it works only the other way around: that we give to whatever we already love. But giving also helps love grow. When we invest our treasure in the mission of Christ, our hearts become more deeply committed to that mission.

I ask each household to prayerfully consider making an offertory pledge for the coming calendar year. Begin with gratitude. Consider what God has entrusted to you. Look honestly at your responsibilities and your resources. Then ask what a generous, faithful response would look like for you.

I need everyone’s support, and I am grateful for every gift. You may wonder whether your gift is too small to make a difference. But remember the poor widow in the Temple: Jesus saw the greatness of her love and trust in those two small coins. Every gift offered in love matters. When we begin with gratitude for what God has given us, we discover that we each have something to share. And through God’s abundant grace, what we offer together can accomplish far more than any of us could do alone.

Please review the information in today's bulletin. You can make your pledge using the form provided there, online, or respond to the email you will receive soon. Sarah Savoie is in the narthex after mass to answer any questions you have.

Saint Pier Giorgio shows us the joy that becomes possible when we receive our lives as gifts and generously share them. He found people to love with the time, strength, and resources he had. And through that daily generosity, God made him a saint.

The same Lord is at work among us. Here at this altar, Jesus gives himself to us. As we receive him, let us ask for hearts that are grateful, generous, and ready to answer his call.

Come Holy Spirit! Counselor and giver of life. I open myself to your presence and humbly ask for your guidance. Create in me a generous heart and inspire me to use my gifts. That I may love and serve Christ's body and build up this parish family. Amen.