**Growing the Pie Week 1**

**Vision Demands Great Leadership**

**Message Notes**

### This series about what it means to be a church. Church is a MOVEMENT of people all moving in the same direction.

### The Bible gives us a VISION of what the Church will be like in the future:

* *“A great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue”* (Revelation 7:9).
* *“A vast army”* (Ezekiel 37:10).

### NUMBERS matter but the numbers in church are declining. That trend can be reversed through clarity of VISION. Jesus had vision and vision brings HOPE for the future.

### Our vision statement is as follows:

* ***“We strive to be a community growing in faith where everyone loves to belong.”***

### The word “we” means that everyone is included and that means in leadership too.

### Christian leadership is SERVANT leadership.

* *“Those who are recognized as rulers . . . make their authority over [others] felt*. *But it shall not be that way among you. Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant*” (Mark 10:43).

### We want to serve you by giving you the opportunity to SERVE, because servant leaders SHARE power.

### Leadership is a burden and every hero in the Bible was tested, but:

* *“[W]e do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but one who has similarly been tested in every way”* (Hebrews 4:15).

### We want to walk with all people on a journey from being a SEEKER who comes to church to a MEMBER of the parish to a true DISCIPLE of Christ to a church LEADER.

### Every time you INFLUENCE someone in the direction of Christ, you move us toward the great vision of a VAST ARMY for God and a MULTITUDE of believers.

**Praying with Saint Andre of Montreal**

*by Lisa Rosenlund*

Whenever I think I am too small and insignificant to be a Christian leader, I think of Saint Andre of Montreal, the only member of the Congregation of Holy Cross to be canonized a saint. Those of you who attended St. Hilary’s Healing Mass on September 4th are already familiar with him. Saint Andre’s order, the Congregation of Holy Cross, which originated in France, is the same order that founded the University of Notre Dame in the United States.

Saint Andre was born Alfred Bessette in 1845 to a working-class family in a small town southeast of Montreal. He was baptized shortly after his birth because they didn’t think he would live more than a few days and he remained sickly all his life. Orphaned at the age of twelve, Alfred was placed under the care of the Nadeau family who sent him to catechetical lessons taught by the pastor of his parish, Rev. Andre Provencal. During these lessons, Alfred developed a devotion to Saint Joseph. Short, physically weak and not a great intellect, Alfred was unable to remain in school or sustain jobs as a laborer. However, Rev. Andre noticed Alfred’s great faith and nominated him to the Congregation of Holy Cross in Montreal saying, “I am sending you a saint.”

Alfred almost washed out of Holy Cross as well, but fortuitously met and impressed the Archbishop of Montreal, who intervened on his behalf. At age 28, Alfred became a lay brother of the Holy Cross and took Rev. Andre’s name to become Brother Andre. Lay brothers did not have the required education to study for holy orders and become a cleric. The role of lay brother allowed manual laborers to participate in and contribute to the life of the order. Unfortunately, Brother Andre did not have skill as a manual laborer either, so he was given the job of porter at College Notre-Dame. This involved opening the door to visitors, greeting them and seating them in the hall until a priest was available.

Brother Andre listened to the stories of the visitors and shared his devotion to Saint Joseph. He began to visit the sick in their homes and rub them with oil he had taken from a lamp at the College. Soon people started coming to see Brother Andre, not the priests, and claimed they had been cured by him. Brother Andre credited Saint Joseph for the cures and received inspiration from God to build a shrine to St. Joseph on the hill across the street from the College. He saved the money he earned from giving haircuts at five cents each until he had the $200 he needed to build a small chapel. When it was completed, Brother Andre was released from his porter duties at the College and became the full-time caretaker of what is now the Oratory of St. Joseph. When Brother Andre died at age 91, more than a million people paid their respects at the Oratory. After his death, a basilica was built nearby which today attracts over two million visitors a year. Brother Andre also became the inspiration for an order called the Contemplatives of Saint Joseph. In 2010, Pope Benedict XVI declared him a saint.

How could someone in poor health with no family, no money, and no prospects, who held the lowliest position at his place of employment, become not only a great spiritual leader, but a saint?! I think the answer is prayer. Saint Andre prayed to Saint Joseph constantly and he urged others to do the same. He so believed in the power of prayer that he used his own money to build a chapel for people to pray to Saint Joseph. To pray in the style of Saint Andre is to pray constantly and fervently to Saint Joseph with the firm conviction that anything is possible with prayer.