

faith

JANUARY/FERUARY 2019
WWW.CDOM.ORG

WEST TENNESSEE

INSIDE

culture

Shrimp cakes:
A perfect Lenten recipe

feature story

Candles: Visible signs
of Catholic joy

feature story

The Gloria: Shout
it out with joy!

Conduit
for
Christ

BRENDA ANSWERS GOD'S CALL

Troubled times call for steadfast saints

I think we all know by now that these are troubled times for our faith and the Catholic Church as a whole. One needs only to look at the scandals across the country to see it. We have experienced our own hurts and pains within our diocese. With the removal of the bishop and the scandals as a whole, many people are left wondering what to do?

I would answer that we must do what we have always been asked to do. We need to become saints. Especially the men. There are many wonderful men who step up each and every day to answer the call of the Lord. If we are being honest with ourselves, though, the percentages of men who don't are overwhelming. The statistics scream that, throughout the Church in the U.S., most men have simply checked out. This leaves a huge void in the Church. You see, God made us to be the priest of our family. He designed us to be the spiritual leaders of our households and, thus, the Church. When we are not stepping forward to fulfill that obligation, we are leaving a dangerous breach in the wall for the devil to take advantage of — and take advantage of it, he certainly has.

Troubled times call for steadfast saints. Now I know when you mention becoming a saint, most people simply stop listening. They receive that as too overwhelming of a task. In our minds, it

JUST A GUY IN THE PEW



JOHN EDWARDS
is a member
of Holy Rosary
Parish.

immediately becomes a mountain that is too big to climb. We need to simplify what a saint is.

A saint is someone who loves God so completely that they do whatever God asks of them. They are obedient. They trust in the plan, even when it appears that the plan has gone south. The saints trusted in the crucifixion just as much as they did the resurrection. They simply stayed out of the way and trusted in the Lord. That is exactly what we need to do through these troubled times. We need to pray. We need to fast. We need to live in the word in order to grow in our relationship with Christ. We need to stay out of the way, grow in our own holiness and allow God's plan to unfold the way it was designed it.

Every single time that darkness has attempted to overtake our Church, the light has risen to meet it through the creation of great saints. This time can be no different. It's time to witness the birth of a new generation of saints, and there is no reason it can't start with you. †