



January 21, 2021

Greetings! I am hoping that your Spring 2021 Semester of classes have had a good beginning. Yesterday was the inauguration of the 46th president of the United States. Today I want to share about two other great men that you may have already heard about. This past Monday we celebrated the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. and next Monday we will celebrate the Conversion of St. Paul in the Catholic Church. These are two great men that I believe we can learn from – even though they lived almost two centuries apart.

Many of you may be more familiar with Martin Luther King, since he lived within some of our own life-time. The following is from Martin Luther King's last addresses to his followers – *"I have a dream that one day, the rough places will be made plain, the crooked places will be made straight, and all people shall see it together."* When I read those words, I wonder are we any closer to experiencing that dream here in the United States? I believe we still have a ways to go before experiencing that dream for even the people here in the U.S. Yet, I am grateful that the very fact that we do celebrate his life each year in some sort of way, tells me that we have a good goal to work toward, and any athlete will tell you that working toward a specific goal puts us in the right direction. Let's keep that dream alive in our homes, schools, and work places.

Next week is the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. Paul lived during the life-time of Jesus, but he never met Jesus during his earthly life. The story in the Bible tells us that in the beginning, Paul had a **different goal** in mind -- he sought to get **rid of all** followers of Christ. But one day on his way to Damascus to do that, (Acts 9) Paul had an experience that changed his life forever. The Acts of the Apostles tells us that Paul was knocked off his horse, and he heard these words: *"Why are you persecuting me?"* Paul could see no one, but he heard those words. Those words were the ones that changed Paul's life forever. Are there any words that you have heard that might have changed your life? Reflect on what those words were and how you have been changed.

God bless you and your family!

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