

May 2012

"Saints" reaching out

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Recommended Citation

Irving, Don (2012) "'Saints" reaching out," *Verbum*: Vol. 9 : Iss. 2 , Article 7.
Available at: <https://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/verbum/vol9/iss2/7>

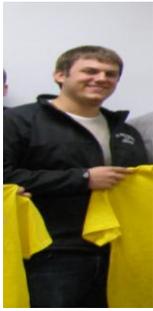
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Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"Last semester in a "Saints in Film" course we did a project that related our class to the real world and helping others. In an effort to act on what we learned about saints, their love of God and their desire to express it through their lives, we contacted a parish in Brazil and came up with a class project to help their youth soccer program. The children there love the sport of soccer and we believed it would be a great gesture of love to give them proper soccer jerseys. Our goal was to raise money and donate 30 youth soccer jerseys for the young members of the parish who were in need."



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“Saints” reaching out

Last semester in a “Saints in Film” course we did a project that related our class to the real world and helping others. In an effort to act on what we learned about saints, their love of God and their desire to express it through their lives, we contacted a parish in Brazil and came up with a class project to help their youth soccer program. The children there love the sport of soccer and we believed it would be a great gesture of love to give them proper soccer jerseys. Our goal was to raise money and donate 30 youth soccer jerseys for the young members of the parish who were in need.

Our class proposed a plan to create our own design on the front of the jersey and to make them look similar to those of the Brazilian National Soccer team. We combined the Fisher Cardinals logo with the name of the parish in Brazil. After we realized that we would need to find a little more money, a few of our class members proposed the idea to another one of Dr. Costanzo’s classes, “*What is Religion?*” When the shirts were purchased and the new logo printed on them, each member of the two classes signed the shirts. We wanted the children to know that we cared for them and shared their love for athletics. This was not just a contribution to a parish in need, but a great experience to those of us involved here at Fisher.

We were not just finding food or clothing to donate which any one could have found around the house, we actually took our time to come up with an idea to help specific members of the community. It was a more meaningful project to the class because our personal connection was greater than just handing over a can of soup. Our class really was connected with this project in more than one way. Throughout the semester our curriculum taught us about saints and how people become saints. Giving back to the community and living in God’s divine image no matter how far it would take us, was one of the most stressed elements of saintliness. Saint Clara and Francis of Assisi are both great examples of giving back to those less fortunate. Both lived in God’s divine image by helping those who were in need. Saint Francis of Assisi lived amongst the lepers who had a terrible skin condition. Saint Clara saw Francis’ good deeds and soon followed in his footsteps. This was what our class aimed to do, walk in the footsteps of the most loving people in Christianity.

