

October 23, 2019



Dear Friend in Christ,

More than a century ago, a young girl from the small French town of Alençon had an insight she later recollected in her (posthumous) autobiography *The Story of a Soul*. "I understood," she reflected, "that each soul is free to respond to the calls of our Lord, to do much or little for his love." Then she concluded, "I cried out: 'My God, I choose everything! I will not be a saint by halves! Accept the offering of my will, for I choose all that you will!'"

That little girl, who died at age 24, would go on to become, in the words of one, "the greatest saint in modern times." Affectionately called *The Little Flower*, we know her today as St. Therese of Lisieux.

"I will not be a saint by halves!" Those words changed my life. Therese taught me that none of us can drift into a holy life or become what God wants us to be by half-measures. We have to will it. We have to commit to it.

Our stewardship theme this year is *Commit. Give. Grow*. On the one hand, yes, the focus is on our money, your generosity and mine. Generosity, after all, is one of the signs the Holy Spirit is active in the life of the believer. Yet none of us simply wakes up generous. Generosity starts as a commitment, a discipline, until it becomes a natural part of who we are no matter the circumstances. As it goes with generosity, so it goes with all the virtues of the Christian life. Prayer, worship, service, love, humility: all these necessitate a commitment to be what each virtue requires.

I am challenging us to commit to give to DUMC for 2020. Pledge to support our efforts to bring people into a living encounter with Jesus Christ through worship, education, fellowship, and service. Complete the enclosed pledge card, mail it back to us, or bring it to worship on Sunday, November 10. You may also pledge online at www.davidsonumc.org/2020pledge/.

More to it, commit to everything and anything else the Lord asks. Commit to prayer. Commit to study. Commit to worship. Commit to serve.

Commit, in the words of St. Therese, to be everything God wills you to be. Choose all!

Your servant in Christ,

Shane