Instructions: We know that God calls us to be the best we can be (that is, saints) and that no one becomes a saint without first planning (and then trying!) to be one. The purpose of this assignment is to help you discern who God is calling you to be and then figure out the steps you will need to take in order to become that person.

PERSONAL MISSION STATEMENT
A personal mission statement defines who you are and how you will live. It can help provide clarity of mind and heart and give you a strong sense of purpose.

Instructions: Come up with a personal mission statement that is:

1. A unique description of the kind of person you think God is calling you to be.
2. No more than a sentence or two long.
3. Easily understood by a 14 year-old (not overly wordy).
4. Able to be recited by memory.

See Extra Info - Personal Mission Statement for examples.

“I” STATEMENTS
“I” statements are positive sentences beginning with “I…” which describe you as if you were already the best version of yourself. “I” statements help you envision yourself being the person you think God is calling you to be.

Instructions: Come up with 10 “I” statements that describe the kind of person you think God is calling you to be.

See Extra Info - I Statements for examples.
**S.M.A.R.T. GOALS**

Setting goals is a tried and true way of accomplishing important things in one’s life. Goal-setting can help you carve out a much-needed path towards holiness and happiness.

**Instructions:** Come up with 3 short-term and 3 long-term goals that can help motivate you and lead you in the direction of being who God is calling you to be. Make at least one of your goals in each category *spiritually* focused. Your other goals can be physical, emotional, social, or intellectual. Each of your goals should meet the S.M.A.R.T. criteria for goal setting.

See *Extra Info – SMART Goals* for examples.

**HEROES**

Having heroes in life is important because they can inspire and challenge you to be who God is calling you to be.

**Instructions:** Think of 3 heroes (on earth or in Heaven) that possess qualities or characteristics that you would like to imitate in your own life.

See *Extra Info – Heroes* for examples.

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**Extra Notes:**

1. While we will be sharing these assignments in class, you will not be required to share any specific goals or details if you do not want to.
2. I am asking you to fill out two separate worksheets (with the same answers). One worksheet is for you to take home and put somewhere that you will see it on a regular basis. The other worksheet you will be sealing in a self-addressed envelope that will be mailed to you a few years down the road. My hope is that receiving your Plan to Be a Saint at a later date:
   a. Is fun for you and makes you smile
   b. Causes you to reflect on how well you are living out your plan
   c. Encourages you to update your plan based on wherever you are currently at in life
Extra Info: **PERSONAL MISSION STATEMENT**

**Examples:**

- To be a happy saint each and every day, especially through my vocations as a husband, father, and teacher.
  
  - Greg Aitchison

- To further develop and nurture my personal relationship with Jesus and live out the principles that Jesus Christ taught. To become a saint by drawing closer to Christ and living a life of virtue daily.
  
  - Dan Moran


- Trust, honor, and serve God, my amazing husband, precious children, family and friends. Take pride in making our house a warm and inviting home that we can love, laugh, relax and be happy in.

- My mission is to serve God by helping and encouraging others, bring a smile to someone’s day and making a difference in others lives.

- I want my life and all I do point others to God and the amazing life He wants to give each person (John 10:10).

- To find good in others and encourage them to be the best that God created them to be as I try to be the best me that I can be.

- To keep peace with my God and myself in accomplishing all goals; to maintain honesty and integrity in all I do; and to live my dreams and passions, keeping them aligned with the will of God.

- To be a good steward of all that God has entrusted to me, to be a blessing to someone every day, and to choose joy everyday.

- To learn and then share with humor and optimism, so that others can love and improve their lives.

- Speak truth and change lives one person at a time.
Extra Info: S.M.A.R.T. GOALS

S.M.A.R.T. Goals are:

1. **S** – *Specific* (Make a clear, detailed goal)
2. **M** – *Measurable* (Make your goal something you can track the progress of)
3. **A** – *Attainable* (Make your goal challenging, yet realistic and accomplishable)
4. **R** – *Relevant* (Choose a goal that you think would help you be a better person. Don’t base it off of someone else’s life.)
5. **T** – *Time-bound* (State exactly when you are going to work on this goal and when you want to accomplish it.)

Examples:

**General Goals**

- Wake up with 1st alarm (and OFFER IT UP!)
- Go on daddy/daughter dates with Mary (and eventually Piper) at least once every other month.

**Physical Goals**

- Run and break a 7:00 mile, then 6:45, 6:30, 6:15, 6:00
- Do 8 Marine pull-ups (palms facing away), then 9, 10, 11, 12, 13

**Intellectual Goals**

- Study more atheism apologetics.
- Type summary notes from theology and philosophy books I’ve already read.

**Social Goals**

- Stay in better touch with long-distance family and friends, especially via phone and/or Skype dates

**Spiritual Goals**

- Steer clear of, don't participate in, and help stop gossip.
- Pray while driving before listening to the radio or iPod.
- Pray for all of my students by name every Sunday night.
- Go on an annual camping retreat by myself each summer for a minimum of 2 nights. Spend time praying, journaling, exercising, sleeping, and reviewing my mission, “I” statements, goals, etc.
Extra Info: “I” STATEMENTS

Examples:

• I cherish, love, and support Kate through my prayers, words, and actions.

• I compliment Mary and Piper, read with them, play with them, dance with them, hug them, and go on daddy/daughter dates with them.

• I pray with my family and for my family.

• I fast and offer things up for my family, friends, students, and those in need.

• I encourage my brothers in Christ to climb the mountain of faith and I support them on their journey.

• I do not gossip but instead look for the best in others.

- Greg Aitchison

• I am glad and joyful when I am persecuted for following Christ because in heaven my reward will be rich (Mt. 5:12).

• I go the extra mile for others (Mt. 5:41)

• I love my enemies and pray for those who persecute me (Mt. 5:44)

• I do not worry (Mt. 6:25)

• I am reconciled with everyone (Mt. 5:23-25)

• I make disciples of the people that are part of my life. I teach them to obey Jesus' teachings. (Mt. 28:18-20)

• I work my hardest

• I am charitable

• I never drink alcohol in excess

• I will live this day as if it is my last

- Dan Moran
**Extra Info: HEROES**

**Examples:**

1. Dad

*Characteristics I wish to imitate:*

- Humility
- Willingness to help others at the drop of a hat
- Courage to stand up for what is right

2. Fr. Mike Schmitz

*Characteristics I wish to imitate:*

- Genuineness when speaking one-on-one with others
- Passion for helping those around him be saints
- Ability to creatively and skillfully teach others the truth about God and the faith

3. St. John Paul the Great

*Characteristics I wish to imitate:*

- Courage to go against the current and speak up for the truth
- Contagious joy and love of those around him
- Willingness to humbly suffer and offer it up for those around him

4. St. Thérèse of Lisieux

*Characteristics I wish to imitate:*

- Desire to do life-changing things without anyone noticing
- Ability to love with all of her heart even in the most simple of circumstances ("The Little Way")
Feel free to decorate with any/all of the following:

Bible verses/Quote Dogs you want to remember,
“St. ____________, PRAY FOR ME!”, silly designs, etc.