



Connecting with the Saints

Wednesday, August 5th was the first of three Confirmation Liturgies that will be celebrated at St. Joan of Arc and St. Catherine of Alexandria. Nineteen young people, their sponsors and their families gathered at St. Joan of Arc early evening. The atmosphere was welcoming and peaceful.

For me, the most intimate moment, a moment of authentic connection occurred during the Presentation of the Candidates. Father Mike called Mary Sue forward to present the birth names and Confirmation names of each Candidate. As each name was called, the Candidate stood, Father Mike made eye contact with the Candidate, and then he did something I have never experienced nor will I ever forget in a Confirmation Liturgy:

He had taken the time to prayerfully read about each particular saint chosen by our Candidates and in very carefully chosen words; Father Mike offered spiritual direction based on the life of the saint. Father Mike's words were specific and unique to each of our nineteen Candidates.

Powerful! Authentic! Validating! Supportive! Intimate!