

7th Sunday homily notes

I know a young man named Lamar.

His hero is LeBron James of the Miami Heat Basketball team

- **Posters on the wall**
- **Watches all the games he plays in**
- **Has video games with LeBron in it**
- **Practices his moves on the basketball court**

He has one goal: to be as good as LeBron James!

- **He is not worried that he cannot dunk yet**
- **He is unconcerned that he cannot dribble the ball through his legs yet**
- **He is not concerned that he much too short at 5 foot 8 inches**

He has one goal in life: to be as good a basketball player as LeBron James. He watches LeBron's moves; He imitates his every mannerism. He can't wait to grow up and be like him. Lamar is not focused on his limitations; he is focused on his idol and strives to be the best he can in imitation of him.

I believe Lamar's life gives us a great insight into today's readings. We hear in today's first reading from Leviticus "Be holy as I your God is holy". Then this section of Leviticus goes on to mention ways to be holy. In today's gospel we hear Jesus' words, "Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect". Both statements about being holy and being perfect are really saying the same thing.

They are saying that just as our young man, Lamar, spends hours focusing on how perfectly LaBron James plays basketball, we are called to focus constantly on how God is holy, a word which means “other” and how God is perfect.

Both readings give us examples of how a person

Notice something

**“You are the temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwells in you”
([Second Reading](#))**

Are you not aware that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you: If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, and you are that temple

Morris West suggests that at a certain age our lives simplify and we need have only three phrases left in our spiritual vocabulary: Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! He is right, if we understand fully what is implied in living out gratitude. Gratitude is the ultimate virtue, undergirding everything else, even love. It is synonymous with holiness.

So turning the other cheek might make a schoolyard bully worse; but it did help get the British out of India. (Martin Luther King Jr and the civil rights movement)