

I'll be brief today. I have something I would like you to do after the homily. At Mundelein Seminary, where I studied for the priesthood, there are three small chapels. Seminarians tended to gravitate to one of them as their personal place for prayer. My favorite was the Jesuit Chapel – so-named because the faculty in the 1920s and 30s had been Jesuits and that chapel was where they celebrated mass. By my time the only Jesuit on staff was Fr. Pat Boyle, our Moral Theology professor.

Fr. Boyle made a lasting impression on me by one of his prayer-practices. When I was in the Jesuit Chapel, up front praying, I would often hear Fr. Boyle, who lived on the same floor as the chapel, come into the back of the chapel. He would be there for a few moments, and then he would leave. At first I wondered about this, and I eventually asked him about it. He said that whenever he left or re-entered the building, on the way to or from his room, he would stop by the chapel and greet Jesus in the tabernacle. And I can tell you that he did it, and still does it, every time. We became friends and would sometimes go

out for dinner. And I would walk past the door of the chapel on the way to the car, but Fr. Boyle would disappear into the chapel. And it wasn't just a perfunctory nod and dash. He would spend a little time with Jesus. It made an impression on me. This man believed that Jesus was there – and he cared about it – and knew Him.

On Epiphany we celebrate the Wisemen coming to adore Jesus. There is a wise simplicity to the Magi. They aren't put off by challenges to adoring Jesus. "We saw his star . . . and we have come to do him homage." They don't say. "It's too far, too hard!" They just get up and go. Simple – not easy, but simple. Today I want to ask that we do the same. I think of Fr. Boyle constantly making his "visit" (as the old phrase goes) to see Jesus. Why don't we try that – just once a day?

I'm always on you about spending 20 minutes a day in prayer. But what about this? What if I cut that down to ten(!) minutes a day - as long as it's spent in a visit with Jesus here in the church? Holy Family is right next to 405. A five minute detour on the way to, or from, work

and you could spend 10 minutes here. What about that as a New Year's Resolution? If even half of us made a daily visit to Jesus, as Fr. Boyle does, the parish would explode with grace. And we would each be transformed. Be a Wiseman – adore Jesus daily, even if only briefly.

Speaking of the transformation . . . now, to the other task. I would like all of you who are 18 and older to take a brief survey right now. It's a survey designed to show how much our parish is engaged in the faith – how we're doing. It won't take long. It's anonymous. Be honest. What we want to do is get some metrics upon how we're doing as a parish in helping you grow in your relationship with God. We will use the data from today's survey as a bench-mark. Periodically we will have you re-take the survey to see if there has been improvement or the reverse! The ushers will now pass out the survey. There should be pencils in the pews – or use your own. Take about five minutes, then the ushers will gather them. If you're not done put the survey in the collection basket as it goes around. And thank you for your help.