

Simplicity by Deacon Kevin O'Connor

After reading 'Anointed by the Holy Spirit' prayer of mission, composed by Archbishop Bernard Longley, it brought to mind an image which is often in my mind. It is of Blessed John Henry Newman and Blessed Dominic Barberi at Littlemore in Oxford.

This is the place where Newman was received into the Church as a Catholic. I visualise a cold, wet and windy night in October 1845, when Blessed Dominic arrived, the door was almost blown open to let him into the cowshed which had been converted into a chapel.

This is where John Henry Newman made his profession of faith, was received into the Church and made his First Holy Communion. The occasion was remarkable for its simplicity.

Responses to this story:

This story captured the attention of one sixth form student who hadn't realised that Blessed Dominic was assaulted verbally and stoned daily ...the student was keen to know more about these two great men - saints in waiting, and in his own words "how they resonated so strongly with the resilience and strength needed for us all today".

In what way does this capture your attention?

Class or group or family discussion.

Follow information Blessed Dominic

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2013/08/27/archbishop-hopes-dominic-barberi-will-be-made-a-saint/>

The Dementia *family* Ministry prayer card available from

<https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/search?search=dementia>

One way of using the Dementia *family* Ministry prayer card could be setting time set aside and consecrates your memory to the Holy Spirit. As you rest a while the Holy Spirit may remind you of experiences where you may have had a similar encounter of meeting the Lord.

The Pastoral Care Project trustees have also reflected on the text, as I have myself. What I recognise is the simplicity of the person with dementia - their receptiveness to the Holy Spirit; our human eye cannot see the spiritual bond between the Soul and God.

Most of all please us this new prayer to guide the mission of the Pastoral Care Project, and all those who work closely with us, as each one of us is called to witness the love and compassion of Christ. May all the prayers speed the canonisation of Blessed Dominic Barberi.

We would love to hear your experience, please use the contact page, or write to us.