

5/12/20

Christ is Risen!

How many of us have had to go to the toilet really bad on a road trip? Sometimes, due to emergency, we may have even been forced to use a less than desirable gas station bathroom or Port-o-John out there on the road. If this has been the case, then I think we probably have that horrific smell burned into our memory. So, for just a second, let's call that smell to mind and remember that it is something like death.

Okay. Now, on the flip side, how many of us can remember the smell of fresh lilies in the church right after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ? As soon as we walk in the door, the smell of something like Paradise gives us hope for eternity in Jesus Christ.

Now, let's multiply that scent times 50, or so, and that is the fragrant aroma emanating from the holy relics of St. Basil of Ostrog whose memory we commemorate today.

What is it about a smell that can so quickly trigger our memory? I'm not sure.

However, I am sure that sin and spiritual sickness smell like the less than desirable toilet out there on the road. While spiritual purity and good deeds smell like lilies, Paradise, and the Saints. So, the more good we do, the more sweet fragrance we leave behind. The more we sin.... Well, let's just leave that one there.

There is no mistake or happenstance that many Saints' relics have the same sweet fragrance. We are all capable of cultivating the Kingdom of Heaven within us and this becomes so real that we can smell it.

God bless,
Fr. Dean Franck