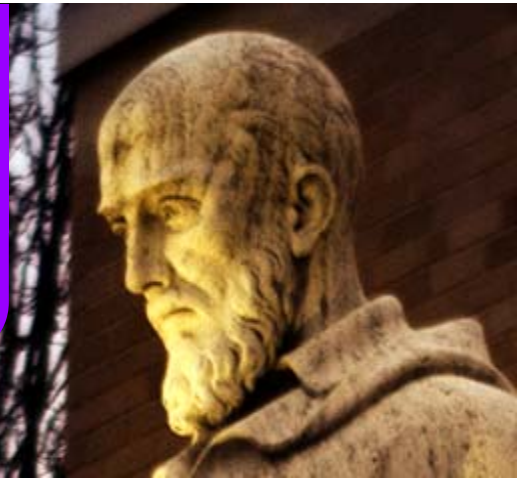


A Moment With De Sales

Richard R. DeLillio, OSFS

Washed Clean



A Salesian Lenten Time Reflection



I remember wash hanging to dry in the yard as I was growing up. My mother wanted my sisters and me to look clean. We were her pride and joy. Her washing was yet another sign of her love for us.

Jesus yearns to wash us clean. We are His pride and joy. Yet, we often resist His touch. We turn away from His gaze, afraid that Jesus may see our hidden acts of greed, hear our hurtful words, or be turned off by our

many failings.

We look away because we don't feel good enough to be His disciples. But Jesus sees with His heart, and from there the beauty of what we *can* become. Jesus can make us clean and help us share in His promises. He washes us, so we can go and make others clean!

Lent is a special time to wash away fears, doubts, and failings. It is the time for Jesus, our savior, to become Jesus, our friend

with a love without limits. And when this happens, delightfully we can go wash others.

St. Francis de Sales once wrote:

"Our Lord did not say: 'Love only the good!'"

He said, 'Love one another as I have loved you, exclude no one!'"

A Reading from the Gospel of John 13:13-15

Do you understand what I have done? You call me teacher and Lord, and you should because that is who I am. And if your Lord and teacher has washed your feet you should do the same for each other.