

*A Message  
From  
Pastor Santa*





# Yes, I am a Pastor



- Bishop of the Church in Myra
- Forget all of the Mythohistory
- No North Pole, no elves, and no flying reindeer
- Many miracles through Christ



# Yes, I grew up with Gratitude



- Came from a rich family
- Conscious of my blessed state
- Conscious of the brutality of the world, and others pain
- Pain struck me, as I was orphaned at a young age



# Wealthy, Yet hungry



- My parents left me wealthy
- I was hungry for God
- My uncle finished raising me, equipping me for ministry



# My Life of Service



- I resolved not to serve myself with my wealth, but others.
- Divine Providence opened the door for my Ascension to the Bishopric of Myra



# Myra

- Paul the Apostle visited Myra on his way to Rome (Acts 27:5)
- Titus Appointed Nicandor Bishop of Myra, who died in AD 95






# Denying Self, Taking up the Cross

A bishop with a long white beard and a red mitre stands in the foreground of a cathedral aisle. The background shows the high vaulted ceiling and wooden pews of the church.

- I also was willing to suffer imprisonment for the faith
- Christ commands us to take up the Cross




# Denying Self, Taking up the Cross

A bishop with a long white beard and a red mitre stands in the aisle of a large, ornate cathedral. The background shows the high vaulted ceiling and stone columns of the church.

Mark 10:17–22 Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?..."



# Denying Self, Taking up the Cross



Mar 10:17-22 ... (18) So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God..."



# Denying Self, Taking up the Cross



Mar 10:17-22 ...(19) You know the commandments: 'DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY,' 'DO NOT MURDER,' 'DO NOT STEAL,' 'DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS,' 'Do not defraud,' 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER...'"



# Denying Self, Taking up the Cross

A photograph of a bishop standing in the aisle of a large, ornate cathedral. The bishop is wearing a red mitre with gold trim and a long, white, curly beard. He is wearing a red cassock with gold fringe on the shoulders. The cathedral has high, vaulted ceilings, stone columns, and a patterned tile floor. A chandelier hangs from the ceiling in the background.

Mar 10:17-22 ...(20) And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth..."



# Denying Self, Taking up the Cross



Mar 10:17-22 ...(21) Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me..."



# Denying Self, Taking up the Cross

Mar 10:17–22 ...(22) But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.





# Denying Self, Taking up the Cross



- I, too, was a rich young ruler.
- Unlike him, I resolved to take up that Cross.
- Unlike him, I resolved to use my wealth in service to others



# Serving Others



- I once slid bags of gold through a window to save three young ladies from a life of sex trafficking
- Without that for a dowry, the father would have been forced to sell them into prostitution



# Serving Others Materially



- I succeeded in anonymously slipping bags of gold twice.
- I got caught the third time



# Serving Others Spiritually



- I was zealous for the souls the Lord entrusted to my care.
- I was Athanasius only ally against the Arian Heresy in the east, standing together on Sola Scriptura



# Serving Others Spiritually



- Arianism denied that God the Son was the same substance as God the Father
- This undermined the Trinity and Hypostatic Union, pointing people away from the Christ who saves.
- I didn't want people to burn in HELLFIRE!!!



# Serving Others Spiritually

- I labored tirelessly to keep that poison out of Myra
- At the Council of Nicea, I gave Arius the ole Russian Slap
- I was imprisoned, but Jesus came to me in prison





# Why Did I Do This

- I never planned on being Santa Claus, but just follow Jesus, for I knew "...the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich." – 2 Cor 8:9





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