



At a Distance – December 30, 2020

“Sometimes Good is Good Enough”

A mentor of mine gave me some wisdom early on in my career as a young engineer. He spoke to me clearly and precisely on that particular day, and I never forgot his words. He said, **“Joe, good is the enemy of great.”** I know those words were designed to motivate me to *go the distance*; to excel, to make each and every piece of my work the best, to set high standards and meet them, to elevate expectations, to perform at a high level, to fight “tooth and nail” to achieve that last 2% of excellence that usually tries to elude us at the end of a project. Ever since that day, I have done my best to live up to -- and into -- those words. But this year Saints, it has been different. 2020 was a gamechanger for me. I have replaced my mentor’s mantra of **“Good is the Enemy of Great”** with **“Sometimes Good is Good Enough.”** And that was a difficult change for me and for many of us.

2020 was a year that brought many of us face to face with our humanity and with our vulnerability. We were challenged physically, spiritually, socially and emotionally. Turbulence abounded everywhere. Our groundings shook beneath us and around us. We grasped for something to hold on to, and we held on for dear life. We held our Families tighter. We held our Community of Faith tighter. We held our God tighter. And we discovered new, different, strange and yes...amazing ways to do it. But in the doing, we stumbled, made mistakes, expressed the non-perfection of our humanness early and often. Yet we not only survived, we thrived. We rediscovered living in the moment, living intentionally, savoring each day we were given, laughing off the minor imperfections that used to annoy and sometimes infuriate us. We rediscovered the *benefit of the doubt*; *cutting each other some slack*; and *don’t sweat the small stuff* again. Good was again...good enough. Is “good still the enemy of great?” Probably, but this year Saints...good felt great to me. Blessings, and Happy New Year...Fr Joe