I tend to try and avoid most social media and one of the reasons for this is that so much of social media is controlled by, what in the business world are called ideas men. What I mean by this is everyone seems to have the perfect plan and that if the rest of us would just do what they say, nirvana would be imminent. If any tragedy comes along you can count on thousands explaining to you that the tragedy could have been avoided if people would have followed their awesome plan. And much of our problem these days seem to be that we are inundated with opinions but severely lacking in people who actually do anything. But today, on Holy Saturday, we have Joseph of Arimathea, the patron saint of people who just quietly do stuff. That is not his real patronage, he is actually the patron saint of funeral directors, which kind of makes sense. But let me explain why I think we should imitate him. In the story we arrive just after the crucifixion and Jesus is dead. As best we can tell everyone has dispersed and Jesus’ lifeless body is just kind of lying around. Here we read, “When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away.” Had this happened today I don’t know if anyone would have done what Joseph of Arimathea did instead, I assume there would have just been a number of outraged social media posts explaining the indignity of Jesus’ body being left uncared for and that it was all the fault of someone you didn’t like. What Joseph did is he saw a problem and then went and took care of it. There was no fanfare, there was no berating of the others who were doing nothing, he simply went and took care of it, using his own labor and his own resources.

I cannot remember who said it, but someone when criticizing the problem with congress these days said we no longer have people who want to work and get things done, but we instead have created a bunch of Congressional Kardashians. These are people who think that their main job is to draw attention to themselves and enhance their own brand. And I am sure no matter where you stand politically, you an easily find examples of this sort of grandstanding. And it is not just congress who prefer to play congressmen on TV, it is really a disease running through our whole society. And a society such as this needs Joseph of Arimathea all the more. It needs to be reminded that sometimes there is work that needs to get done and that work may not be glamorous or put the spotlight on us but is essential work none the less.

Ask yourself this question: What would you notice more, if the governor went on two weeks’ vacation or if your garbageman missed two weeks of trash pickup? Unimportant people who do seemingly unimportant things often have a much greater impact on our lives than the seemingly important. There is a definition of a saint that you have probably heard me reference before and it says this: A saint is not an ordinary person who does extraordinary things rather they are an extraordinary person who does the ordinary things that no one else will do. The world is filled with people who want to be noticed but I think we need more people who do not care if they are noticed but want to do the work that needs to be done. And so as we prepare for Easter, it might do us some good to reflect on the guy who took care of Jesus and laid him in the grave because without that grave how could St. Paul ask, “O grave, where is thy victory?” Paul could not ask because there would not have been a grave out of which for Jesus to come. There are millions of people who every day quietly do things that are essential. Maybe its time we start paying more attention to them and less to the loudest, the shiniest and the angriest.