

Council 12455 Knights are offering reflections on the stained-glass windows in St. Luke's church. Brothers and other parishioners are encouraged to write and share the joy of St. Luke's parables depicted in our beautiful church's stained glass windows. You can see these windows on the St. Luke's website. Below is Brother Michael Benigno's thoughts on this beautiful stained glass depiction.

The Conversion of Saul/Paul Acts, Chapter 9 verses 1-9

Now Saul, still breathing murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, that, if he should find any men or women who belonged to the Way, he might bring them back to Jerusalem in chains. On his journey, as he was nearing Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" He said, "Who are you, sir?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Now get up and go into the city and you will be told what you must do. The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, for they heard the voice but could see no one. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him to Damascus. For three days he was unable to see, and he neither ate nor drank.

What an extraordinary event. Saul, while on the way to Damascus to continue his current life's work of persecuting new Christians, part of the new Way, is shanghaied by the Lord. He's assaulted by a blinding light, thrown off his horse and told by the Lord, when asked, "Who are you, sir?". "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting". The Lord goes on to direct Saul to continue his journey to Damascus where he will be told what he must do with the rest of his life..... Our Lord has just laid down his life for his friends and he is now saving the life of one of his greatest enemies, Saul, a Pharisee. A man who held the cloaks of the men who stoned Stephen to death, who now will become Paul. A new creation who will bring Gentiles to the Way. Only our Lord could see the potential in Saul. Our Lord's unmitigated love for Saul saw that his background as a Roman Jew who hated this new Way would, given the "blinding light", see it all so different. We are all called to love our enemies. So hard to do. But no one ever knows when we can make a difference in someone's life that could change that 6, 12, or 18 degrees of separation from the Lord, that the "blinding light" changed 180 degrees for Saul/Paul. Saul's friends who witnessed the encounter with Jesus bring Saul to Damascus to a house of Judas on a street named Straight to be baptized by a disciple, Ananias and renamed, Paul, where he also regains his sight and a new Way of life..... You can't make this up, it's Gospel, just ask the Holy Spirit.

