



Holy Fools for Love
Holy Fools for Christ

MMACC Lenten Retreat - February 23-24, 2018

The Fool

❖ Characteristics



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 - ❖ Reckless



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 - ❖ Reckless
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 - ❖ Childlike wonder
 - ❖ Risktaker



The Fool

- ❖ Stephen Colbert as the Dancing Fool

WE ARE FOOLS FOR CHRIST'S SAKE

1 CORINTHIANS 4:10



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- ❖ Form of asceticism and humility
- ❖ One of the most controversial (and dangerous) spiritual practices

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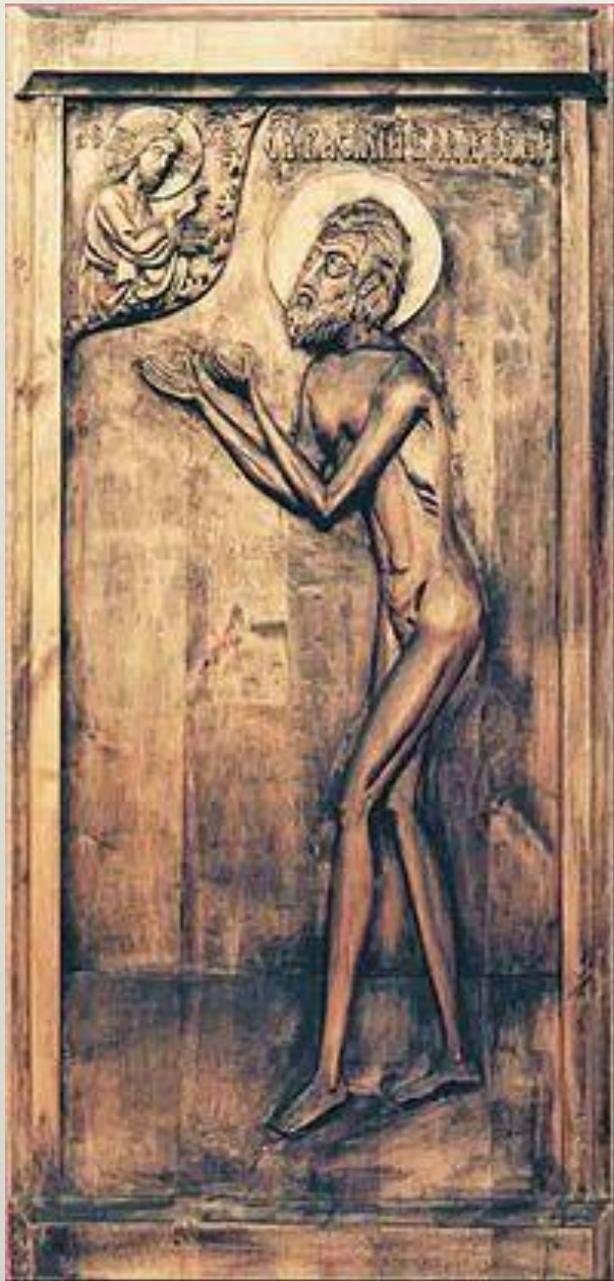


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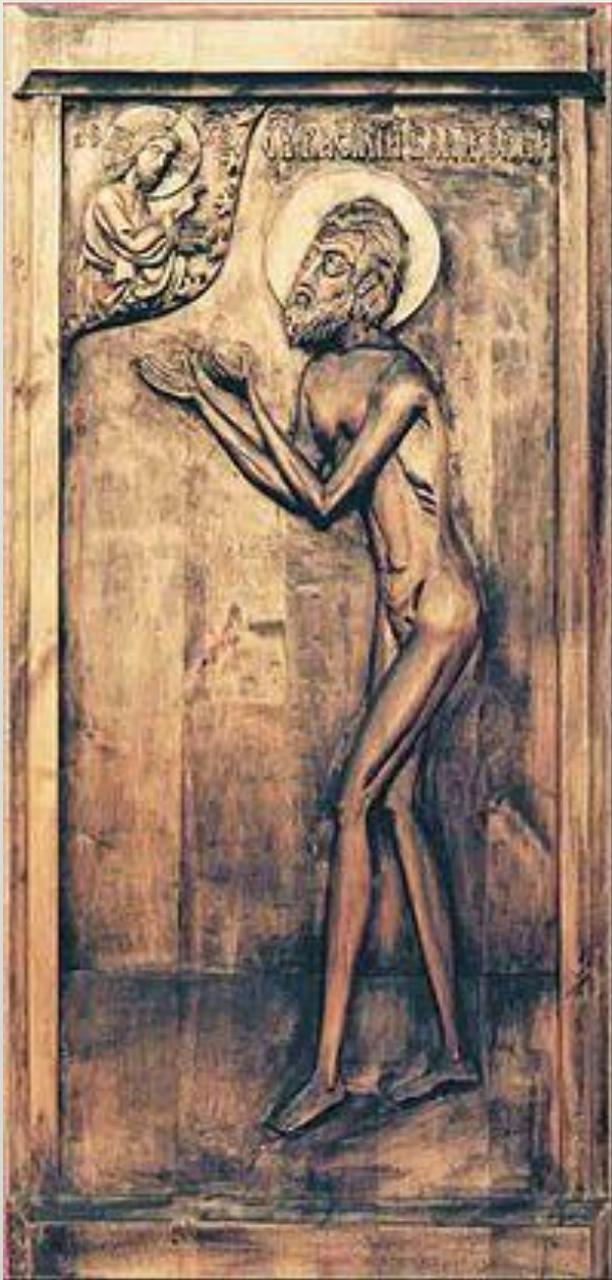
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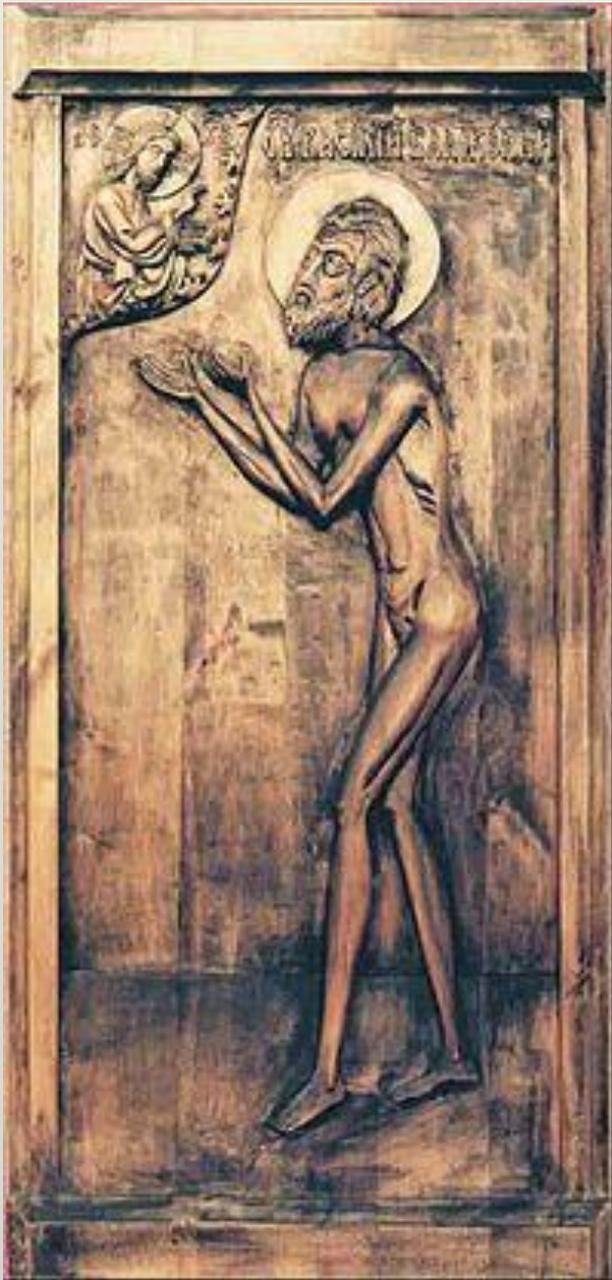


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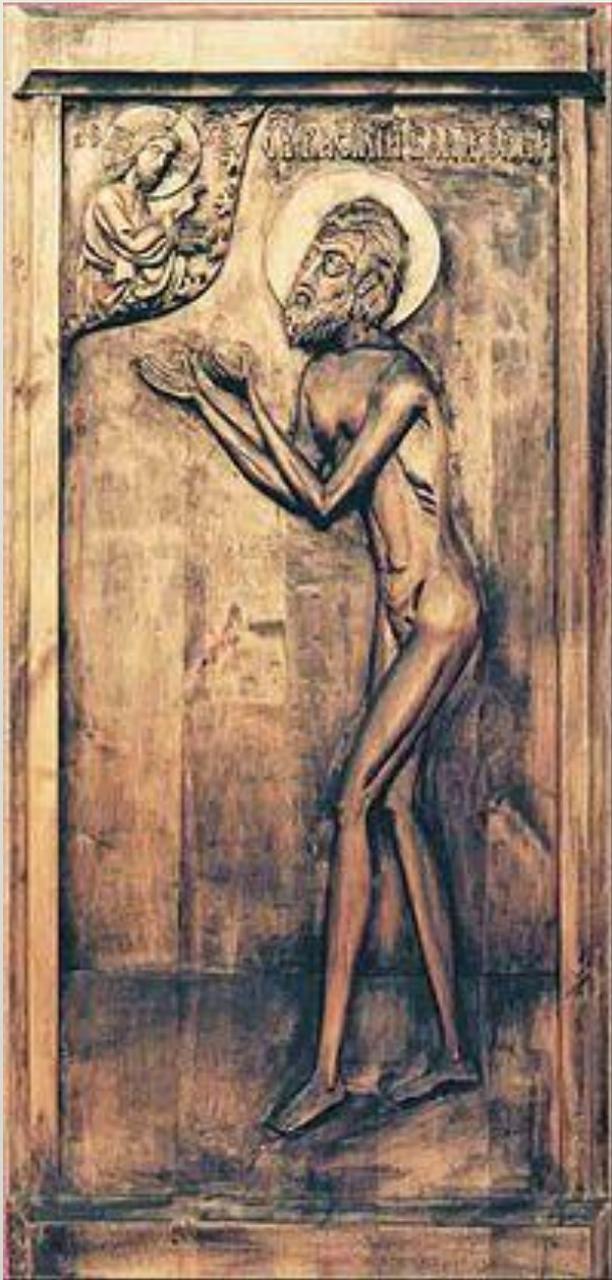
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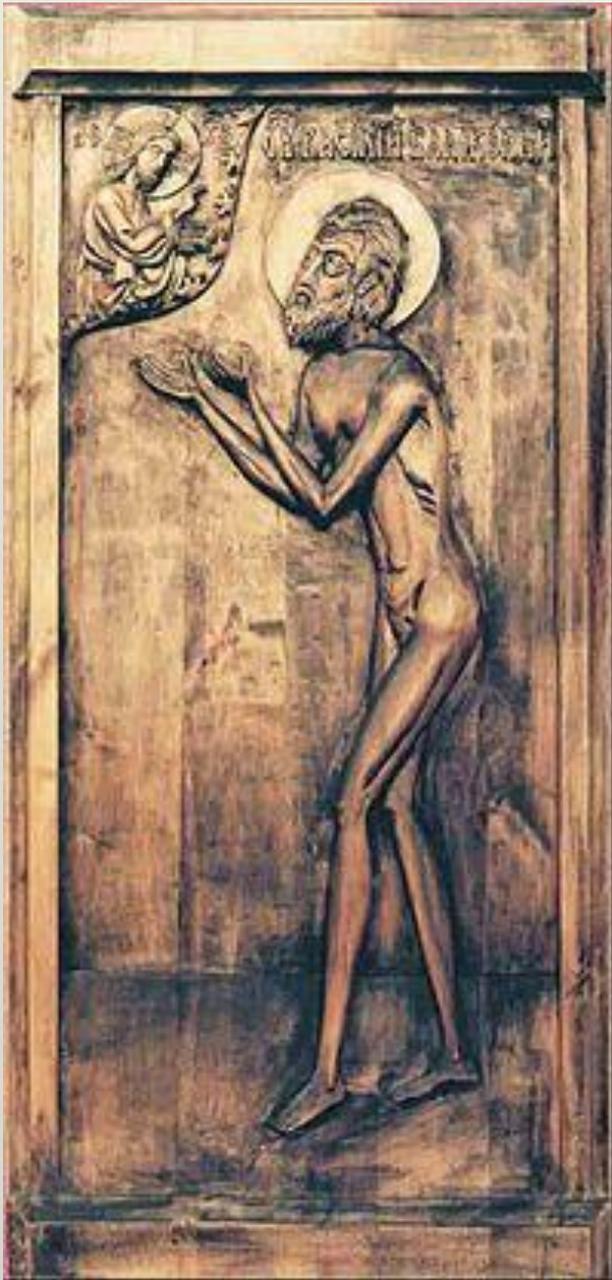
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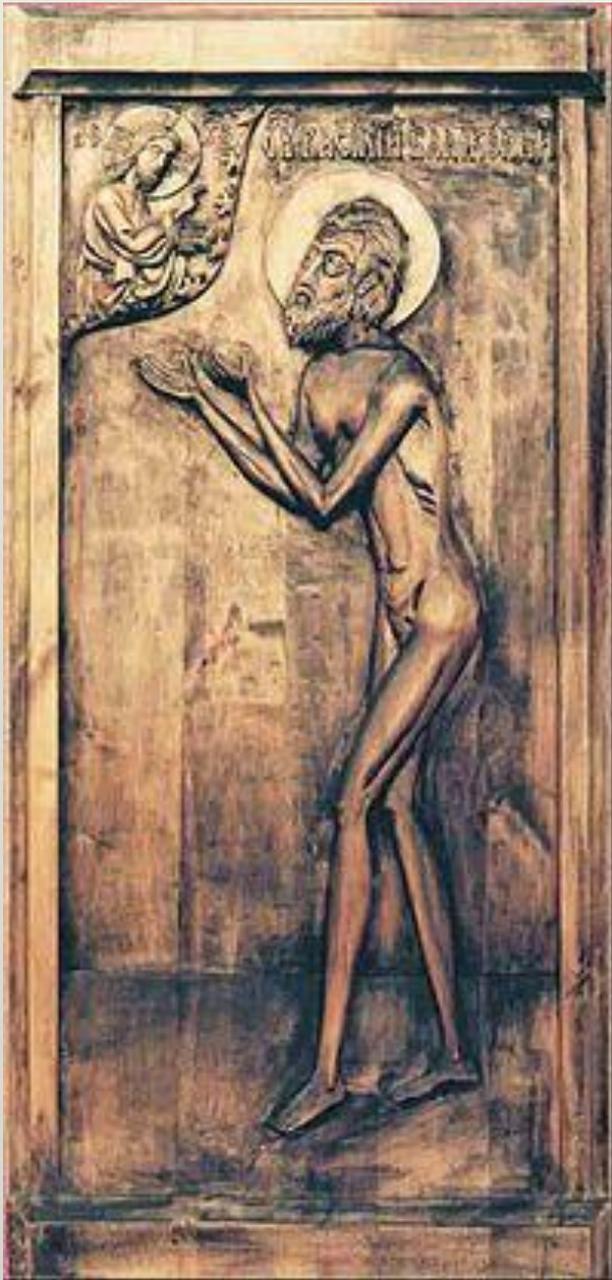
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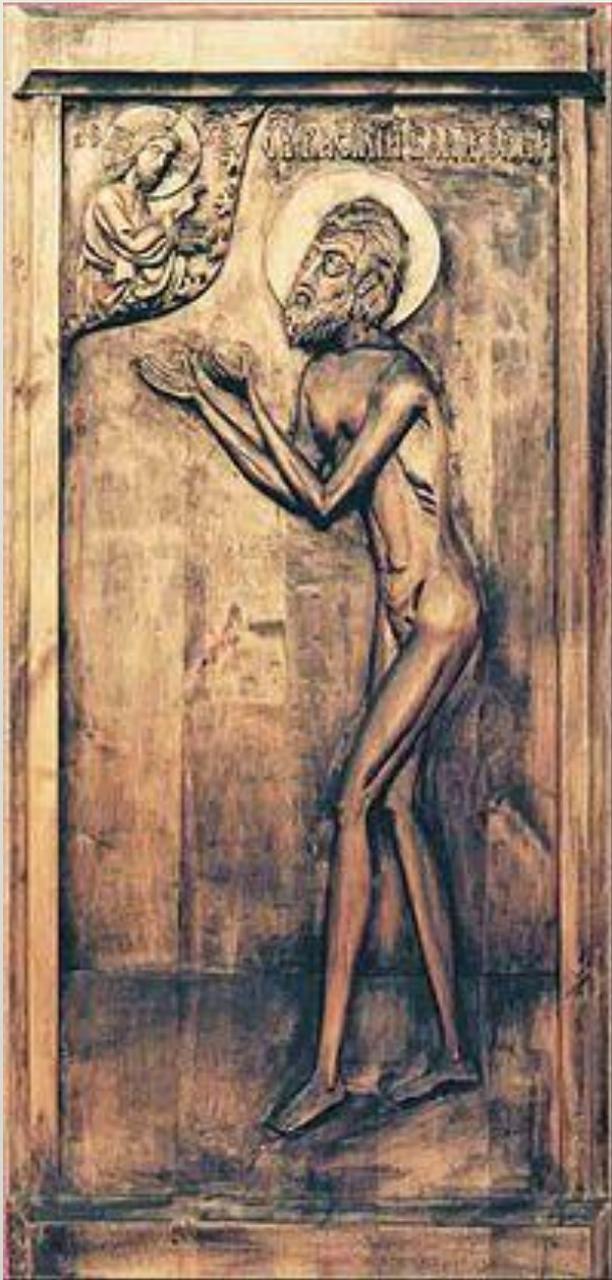
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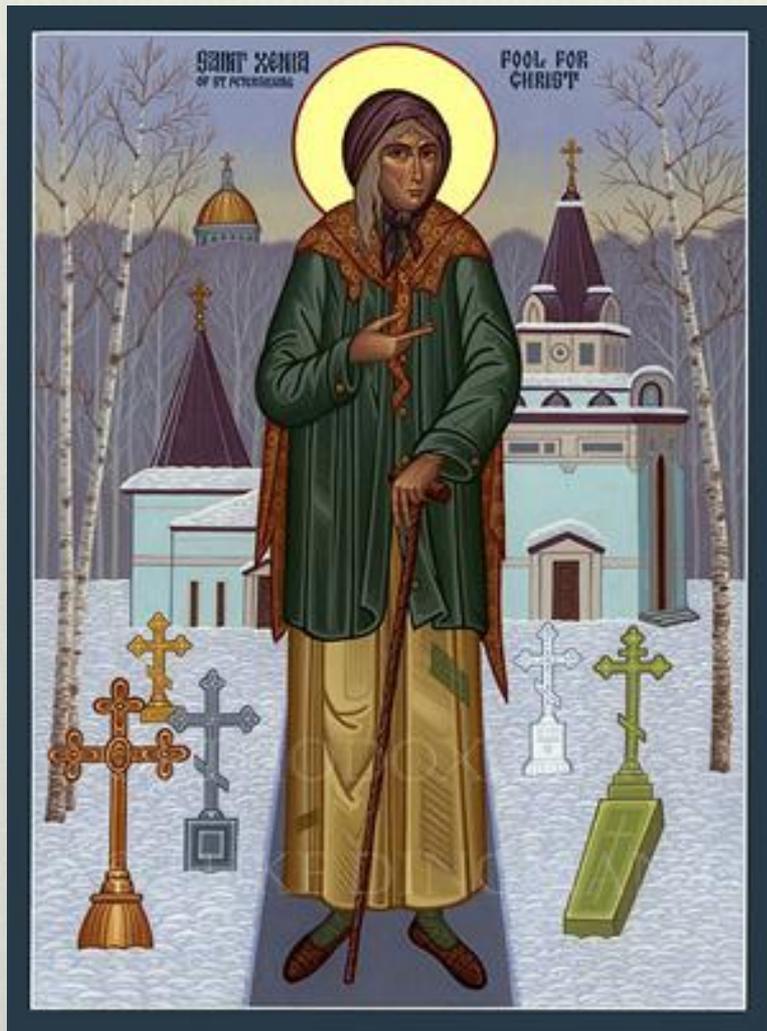
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Xenia of St. Petersburg

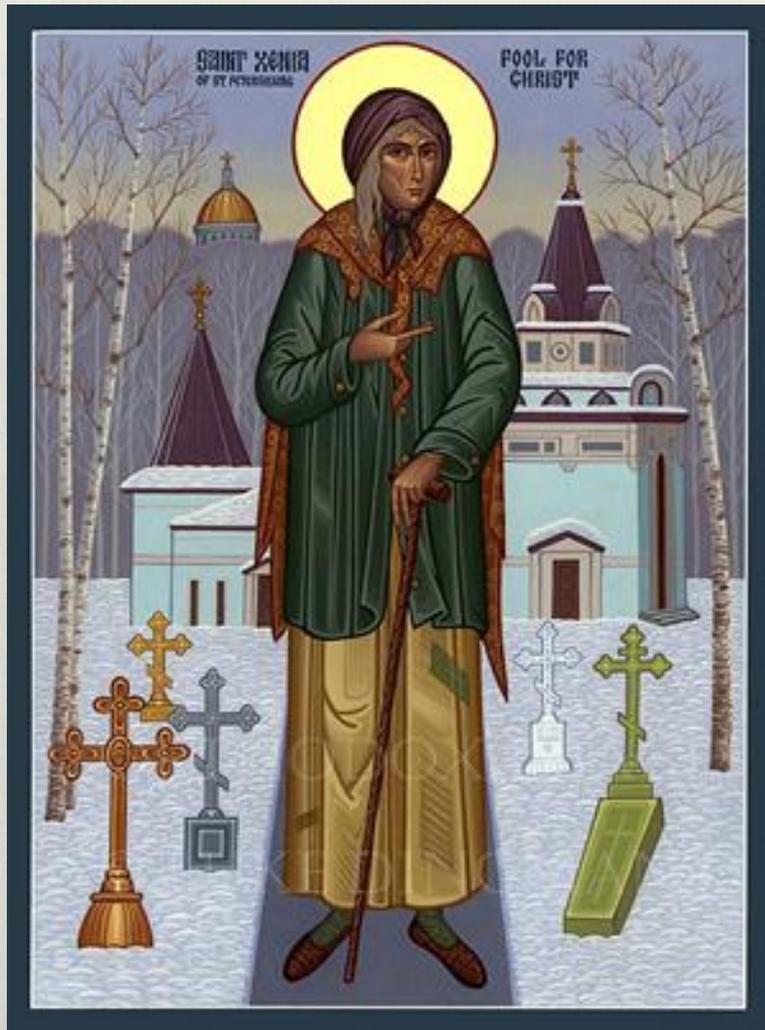


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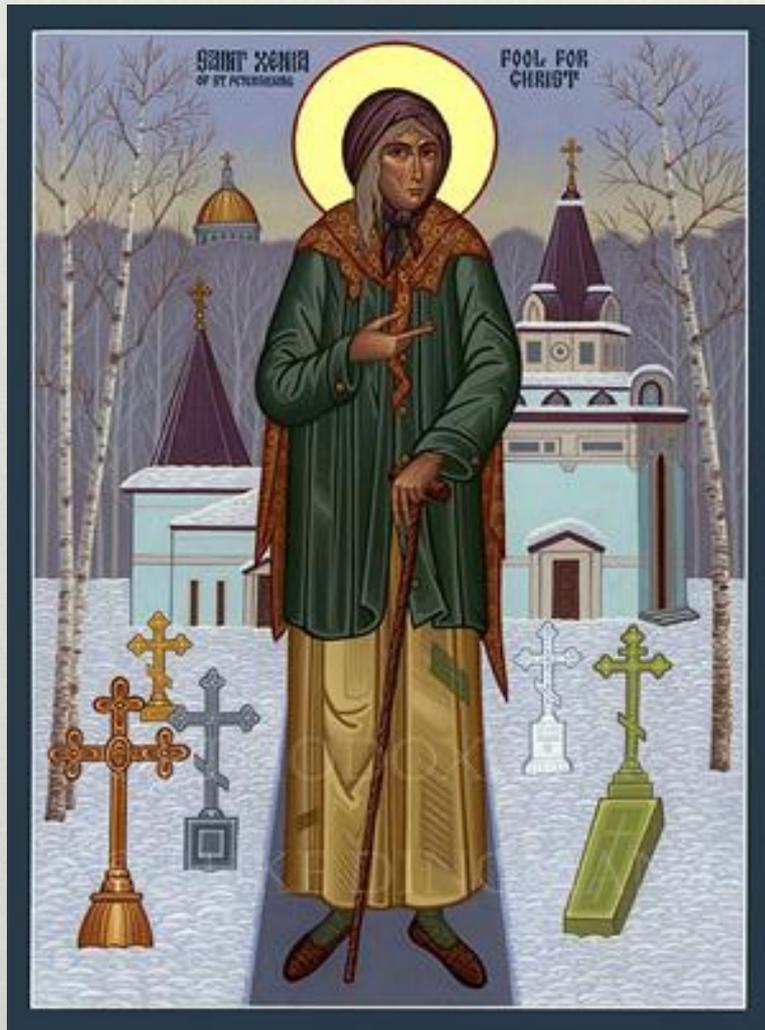
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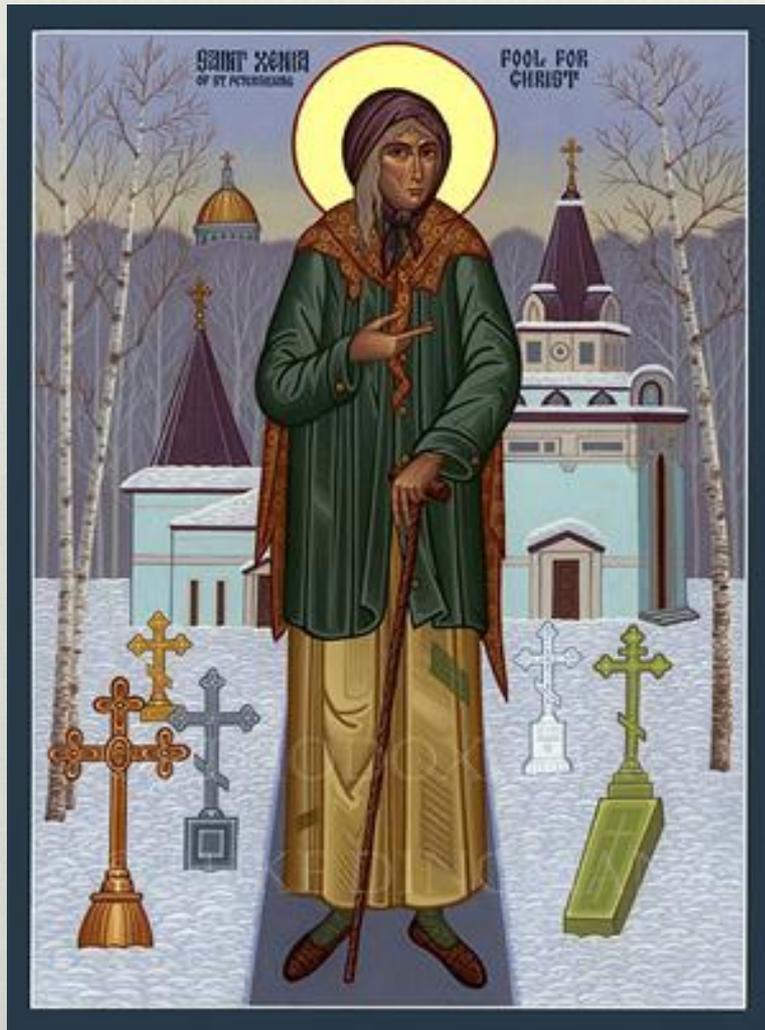
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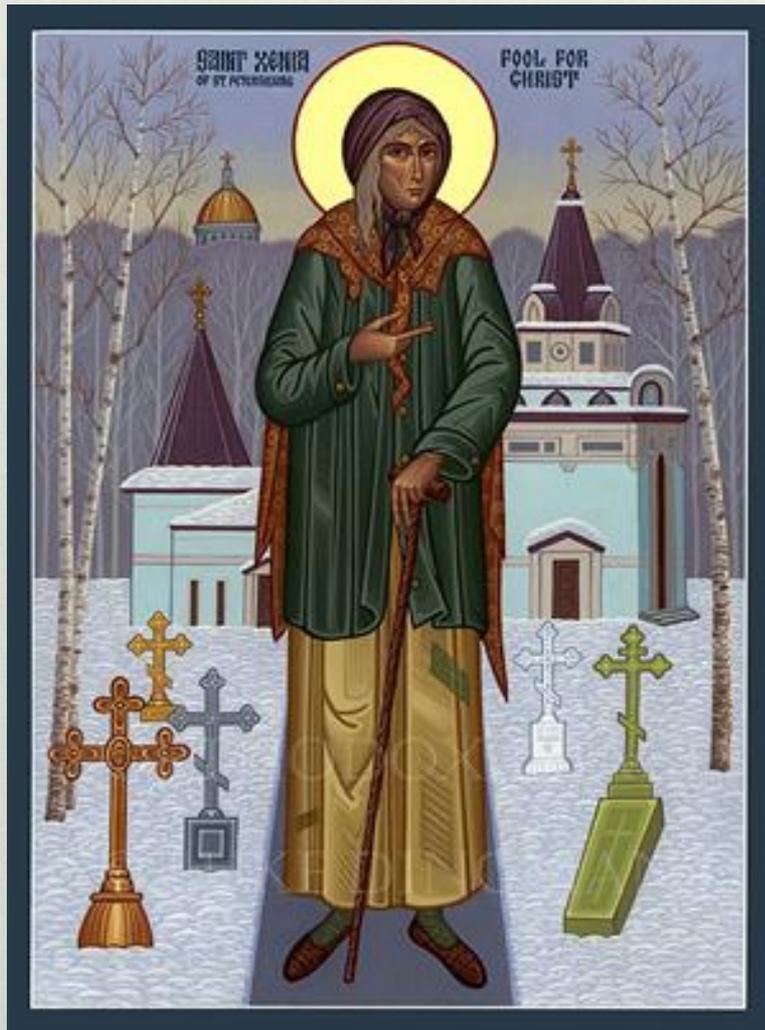
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- ❖ “And I will pray for those who won’t pray for me.”

Holy Fools

“The holy fool’s exploit is that of secret sanctity, which above all promotes the understanding that all of God’s created world is a sacred place. By feigned madness, the holy fool opts to say that the lowliest of the low can be not the poor wretch they appear to be, but a holy one and God’s prophet. [The holy fool] shares power and authority with all the weak, mocked, and despised thus symbolically destroying clear-cut distinctions between the profane and the sacred.”

-Svetlana Kobets, Russian Orthodox Scholar

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- ❖ “If Francis had applied to religious life today, he would not have made it passed the psychological exam.” –Dan Horan, OFM

“St. Francis at the Corner Pub”



Approaching the door, you can already hear his generous laughter.

He stands on the bar upside down for a moment to get a new perspective on things,

A flash of polka-dotted boxers as his brown robe cascades over his head,

Sandaled toes wiggling in the air in time with a fiddle playing in the corner.

Rain falls heavily in the deepening darkness and he orders a round of drinks

Despite his vow of poverty and the single silver coin in his pocket, multiplied by the last Guinness poured.

Nothing like a good glass of wine, he gleefully says, heavy Italian accent echoing throughout the room,

He holds it up to the overhead light, pausing for a moment, lost in its crimson splendor, breathes deeply.

“St. Francis at the Corner Pub”



At ease among fishmongers and plumbers,
widows and college students, and the

Single mother sneaking out for a moment of
freedom from colic, cries and diapers.

As the wind blows rain sideways, in come the
animals, benvenuti to pigeons, squirrels, seagulls,
crows

And the neighborhood cat balding from mange, a
chorus of yowls, coos, caws, and meows arising,

All huddle around him. No one objects to the the
growing menagerie, just glad to be dry and
warm.

He clinks glasses all around, no one is left out.

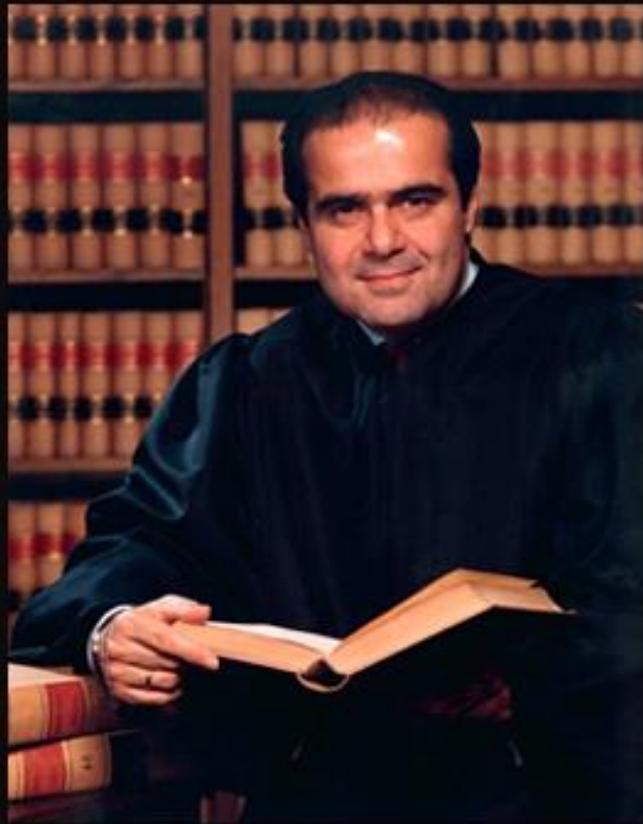
-Christine Valters Paintner

“Holy fools pose the question: Are we keeping heaven at a distance by clinging to the good regard of others, prudence, and what those around us regard as ‘sanity’?”

The holy fools shout out with their mad words and deeds that to seek God is not necessarily the same thing as to seek sanity...

Does fear of being regarded by others as insane confine me in a cage of ‘responsible’ behavior that limits my freedom and cripples my ability to love?”

-Jim Forest, Orthodox Peace Fellowship



God assumed from the beginning that the wise of the world would view Christians as fools...and He has not been disappointed....If I have brought any message today, it is this: Have the courage to have your wisdom regarded as stupidity. Be fools for Christ. And have the courage to suffer the contempt of the sophisticated world.

— *Antonin Scalia* —

THE VOICE BLOG

www.orthodoxnet.com/blog

Stephen Colbert describes
foolishness for Christ
as the willingness to
“be wrong in society, or wrong
according to our time, but right
according to our conscience, as
guided by the Holy Spirit.”

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- ❖ Able to laugh at ourselves (humor & humility have the same root as humus which means earthiness)

- ❖ Have you ever felt like a “fool for Christ”? How did it feel? What did you do?
- ❖ What are the differences between being a fool for Christ and being a silly fool?

Loving God, you know that we don't like
to be seen as the fool.

We want people to think well of us,
to see us as wise and cultured.

There are times we fall short of living out the Gospel.

Help us to be fools for you.

Yet, at the same time, give us wisdom.

Help us to discern how to live
in a countercultural way in accordance with
the desires of your heart.

Let us remember that Your foolishness
is greater than human wisdom
and allow ourselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The foolishness of God
is wiser than human wisdom,
and the weakness of God
is stronger than
human strength.

1 Corinthians 1:25