***St Cecilia Surrounded by St Paul St John the Evangelist St Augustine and Mary Magdalene*, Raphael Sanzio (1514)**
***Piano Sonata No 3 in B Flat K. 281*, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

The definition of *virtuoso* is: 1. A person who has special skill or knowledge in a field; 2. A person who excels in musical techniques or execution; 3. A person who has cultivated appreciation of artistic excellence; 4. A person who has achieved mastery in their craft.

This painting is by master Renaissance painter, Raphael. It depicts St. Cecelia surrounded by St Paul, St John the Evangelist, St Augustine, and Mary Magdalene--all people who were called to profound conversion and trials in their transformation to perfection. The piece of music is composed by Mozart and played by Vladimir Horowitz, one of the most talented musicians of contemporary time. All of these persons exemplify the definition of *virtuoso.*

Pay attention to the skill of Raphael's hand. Reflect upon the faces of these saints, and try to assign meaning to their expressions. Reflect upon the beauty of the musical composition and the skill of the performer. What does it take to perfect a craft?

Ask yourself:

1. Do I have a gift? A special skill or knowledge? How about faith?
2. Do I strive to excel in the execution of my faith?
3. Do I have an appreciation of God’s artistic excellence and creativity?
4. Am I striving to achieve mastery in the gifts that God has given me?
5. What is the meaning of perfection?
6. How do I get there?
7. What is it that is holding me back?
8. Am I open to transformation?
9. Have I been thankful? Or have I taken for granted?