

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

MAY 14, 2017

SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

15th Diseases of Leadership Part II

Let us continue our look at Pope Francis's "15 Diseases of Leadership". Pope Francis's diseases are in bold and my commentary in normal font.

4. THE DISEASE OF EXCESSIVE PLANNING AND OF FUNCTIONALISM. When a leader plans everything down to the last detail and believes that with perfect planning things will fall into place, he or she becomes an accountant or an office manager. Things need to be prepared well, but without ever falling into the temptation of trying to eliminate spontaneity and serendipity, which is always more flexible than any human planning. We contract this disease because it is easy and comfortable to settle in our own sedentary and unchanging ways.

The virtue is always in the middle of two vices. When we lead, we need to make sure that we plan enough that the event can take place but not too much that we get angry when something that we were not expecting happens. I can plan my day so that I can efficiently be a good steward of my time and at the same time I need to be open to people stopping by the rectory and wanting to stop or receiving a call asking me to come to the hospital. If I get mad when my plans must

change then I know that I am suffering from this disease and I need to pray more.

5. THE DISEASE OF POOR COORDINATION. Once leaders lose a sense of community among themselves, the body loses its harmonious functioning and its equilibrium; it then becomes an orchestra that produces noise: its members do not work together and lose the spirit of camaraderie and teamwork. When the foot says to the arm: 'I don't need you,' or the hand says to the head, 'I'm in charge,' they create discomfort and parochialism.

It is important that we do our best to cooperate with those that God wants us to work with as co-leaders. We know that this is not easy because we know that the Apostles argued many times over who was greatest. Remembering that you are all on the same team and want the same thing, can be the start of overcoming this disease. This disease can be identified in us when we feel that we have a NEED to have things done our way all the time.

6. THERE IS ALSO A SORT OF "LEADERSHIP ALZHEIMER'S"

5th Sun. Easter Lectionary: 52 Gospel JN 14:1-12

Spiritual Reflection: Before Jesus no one would have used the word "home" to describe heaven. Before now, people would think of heaven as more of a temple where God is worshipped for all eternity. The idea that God is preparing a home for us invokes the idea that God is preparing a place where we belong.

Spiritual Questions:

1. What is heaven to you?
2. How does your view of heaven affect the way you worship?
3. Where are some places where you find heaven on earth?
4. How is Jesus the way to heaven?
5. How does Jesus reveal to us the Father?



DISEASE.” It consists in losing the memory of those who nurtured, mentored and supported us in our own journeys. We see this in those who have lost the memory of their encounters with the great leaders who inspired them; in those who are completely caught up in the present moment, in their passions, whims and obsessions; in those who build walls and routines around themselves, and thus become more and more the slaves of idols carved by their own hands.

“This is the way that we have always done things,” I have discovered in my opinion is the second worse reason to do something with the first reason being simply changing for the sake of change. We should always realize that change is hard but is also necessary. We also should realize that we are dealing with

people who have attached positive and negative values to the ways of the past. It is important for people to talk about the past so that we can move forward bring the most number of people.

7. THE DISEASE OF RIVALRY AND VAINGLORY. When appearances, our perks, and our titles become the primary object in life, we forget our fundamental duty as leaders—to “do nothing from selfishness or conceit but in humility count others better than ourselves.” [As leaders, we must] look not only to [our] own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Fr. Henri Nouwen in his book *Reaching Out: Three Movements in the Spiritual Life*: “It really does not have to be so dramatic. Fear and hostility are not limited to our

encounters with burglars, drug addicts or strangely behaving types. In a world so pervaded with competition, even those who are very close to each other, such as classmates, teammates, co-actors in a play, colleagues in work, can be infected by fear and hostility when they experience each other as a threat to their intellectual or professional safety. Many places that are created to bring people closer together and help them form a peaceful community have degenerated into mental battlefields.”

Fr. Nouwen and Pope Francis both warn us against turning everything into a competition and to avoid the sin of envy.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Prayers For Mother's Day

BLESSING FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Loving God, we thank you for the love of the mothers you have given us, whose love is so precious that it can never be measured, whose patience seems to have no end. May we see your loving hand behind them and guiding them. We pray for those mothers who fear they will run out of love or time, or patience. We ask you to bless them with your own special love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our brother. Amen.

PRAYER FOR MOTHER'S DAY

God our creator, we come before You and lift up in prayer all mothers, grandmothers,

stepmothers and mothers to be who gave the gift of life. We give you thanks for their presence, talents and gifts which they share in our church, society and world. May all mothers know of Your loving and gentle presence and may they always turn towards You in times of joy, sorrow and glory. We ask this in Your Name. Amen.

PRAYER FOR MOTHER'S DAY # 2

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you watch over Your Church. Bless these women, that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers. Let the example of their

faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Catholic Quiz

Last Week's Answers



1. Chartres Cathedral



2. St. Peter's



3. Francis De Sales



4. Notre Dame (Paris)

This Week's Trivia

Which one of the following does not belong and why?

1. A) Priest B) Deacon C) Monsignor D) Bishop
2. A) Kansas City & St. Joseph B) St. Louis
C) Springfield-Cape D) Jefferson City
3. A) Eureka B) Webster C) Valley Park D) Troy

CATHOLIC HUMOR

Catholic Laughs

+ The preacher's 5 year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why. 'Well, Honey,' he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. 'I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon.' 'How

come He doesn't answer it?' she asked.

+ A Rabbi said to a precocious six-year-old boy, 'So your mother says your prayers for you each night? That's very commendable. What does she say?' The little boy replied, 'Thank God he's in bed!'

CATHOLIC QUOTES

† "The Holy Spirit leads us like a mother. He leads His child by the hand...as a sighted person leads a blind person." St. John Vianney

† "I am not capable of doing big things, but I want to do everything, even the smallest things, for the greater glory of God." Saint Dominic Savio

† "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one." Mother Teresa

† "Father, I am seeking: I am hesitant and uncertain, but will you, O God, watch over each step of mine and guide me." St. Augustine

Epiphany of Our Lord Cow Patty Bingo



Epiphany is hosting its first ever Cow Patty Bingo on Saturday June 3rd from 2PM – 9PM.

Cow Patty Bingo Basics:

1. Msgr. Sullivan field has been divided into 500 5ftx5ft squares.
2. Each square will randomly receive a number 1 through 500. (So #1 will not necessarily be a corner)
3. You may purchase a square for \$20.
4. Squares are assigned randomly.
5. If the Cow drops her patty on your square you win \$2,000

*See www.epiphanystl.org for more info, official rules, and to purchase your squares

† “In the life of the body a man is sometimes sick, and unless he takes medicine, he will die. Even so in the spiritual life a man is sick on account of sin. For that reason he needs medicine so that he may be restored to health; and this grace is bestowed in the Sacrament of Penance.” -St. Thomas Aquinas



In fund-raising as ministry we are inviting people into a new way of relating to their resources. By giving people a spiritual vision, we want them to experience that they will in fact benefit by making their resources available to us— Fr. Henri Nouwen. (Spiritual Writer)

Through the Annual Catholic Appeal, I am able to help the homeless receive housing, children a good education, hungry food, and help the elderly be cared for. No other charity allows me to do so much – Fr. Pastorius

Spiritual Adoption Prayer



“Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of [baby’s name] the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.” - Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

MONTH 4 -- Developing Baby -- “I had a dream!” Well, your little baby now weighs six ounces. She has fingernails and eyelashes. She has her own unique fingerprints, which will remain the same until she dies. Her taste buds are working. Her sense of hearing is developing and present at 14 weeks. There are no major developments anymore. At this month rapid eye movements (REMs) can be detected – a sign of dreaming. Your spiritually adopted baby is already well-formed, internally and externally. All she needs now is time to gain weight and grow strong. What a miracle she is! (Changes on the 3rd Sunday of Month)