

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

MAY 21, 2017

SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

15th Diseases of Leadership Part III

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.

8. THE DISEASE OF EXISTENTIAL SCHIZOPHRENIA. This is the disease of those who live a double life, the fruit of that hypocrisy typical of the mediocre and of a progressive emotional emptiness which

no [accomplishment or] title can fill. It is a disease which often

strikes those who are no longer directly in touch with customers and ordinary employees, and restrict themselves to bureaucratic matters, thus losing contact with reality, with concrete people.

Church leaders must be careful not to develop a "cult of personality" around them. People who are more interested in being their friend than in getting to know Jesus. This can happen if we are not living what we preach. If we are not living a life of constant conversion we can lead people astray because of our love of their praise and attention.

9. THE DISEASE OF GOSSIPING, GRUMBLING, AND

BACK-BITING. This is a grave illness which begins simply, perhaps even in small talk, and takes over a person, making him become a "sower of weeds" and in many cases, a cold-blooded killer of the good name of colleagues. It is the disease of cowardly persons who lack the courage to speak out directly, but instead speak behind other people's backs.

Church leaders must be careful not to develop a "cult of personality" around them.

Let us be on our guard against the terrorism of gossip!

The best way to deal with this is first refuse to participate in gossiping, grumbling, and back-biting. The second thing we can do is practice what psychologists call Positive Sentiment Override. This simply means we intentionally think more positive thought about someone than negative ones. When I was newly ordained I was assigned to a parish where there was a staff person who I did not get along with. We often spent a lot of time talking bad about each other and thus not getting anything accomplished. I decided therefore to say a quick prayer of thanksgiving for the person before we would meet naming three of her positive qualities

BREAKING NEWS:

The Archbishop has asked me to leave Epiphany Parish and to become pastor of St. Joseph's of Manchester, MO.

6th Sun of Easter Lectionary: 55
Gospel [JN 14:15-21](#)

Spiritual Reflection: Advocate is a person who speaks on your behalf. Jesus tells the disciples that the Spirit of Truth will be their advocates. We could ask for no better advocate.

Spiritual Questions:

1. Who are you an advocate for?
2. Who are you not an advocate for?
3. Why do you keep God's commandments?
4. Who has been advocate for you?
5. Who have you fail to be an advocate for?



and sure enough over time I began to treat her better and eventually she began to treat me better and we began to accomplish things. Negativity can also slow things down and so getting rid of it makes us more efficient.

10. THE DISEASE OF IDOLIZING SUPERIORS. This is the disease of those who court their superiors in the hope of gaining their favor. They are victims of careerism and opportunism; they honor persons [rather than the larger mission of the organization]. They think only of what they can get and not of what they should give; small-minded persons, unhappy and inspired only by their own lethal selfishness. Superiors themselves can be affected by this disease, when they try to obtain the

submission, loyalty and psychological dependency of their subordinates, but the end result is unhealthy complicity.

We should remember that our Church is a “hospital for sinners and not a hotel for saints.” (I think St. Augustine said this). This means that individuals in our Church can make mistakes while the Church as a whole cannot error because of the Holy Spirit. I know that I have been wounded by the Church’s leadership but this does not shake my faith because I don’t give them that much power.

11. THE DISEASE OF INDIFFERENCE TO OTHERS. This is where each leader thinks only of himself or herself, and loses the sincerity and warmth of [genuine] human relationships. This can

happen in many ways: When the most knowledgeable person does not put that knowledge at the service of less knowledgeable colleagues, when you learn something and then keep it to yourself rather than sharing it in a helpful way with others; when out of jealousy or deceit you take joy in seeing others fall instead of helping them up and encouraging them.

We have to realize that the person we proclaim to be the best leader is Jesus Christ and not Caesar Augustus (or other worldly leader). Jesus was concern with others while Caesar Augustus was concern only with his own advancements, fame, needs, and wants.



PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Prayers For Priests

Many men are being ordained to the priesthood over the next few weeks. Here are some prayers you may pray for them and for all who serve God as priests.

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS # 1

Keep them, I pray Thee, dearest Lord, keep them, for they are Thine Thy priests whose lives burn out before Thy consecrated shrine.

Keep them, for they are in the world, though from the world apart; when earthly pleasures tempt, allure shelter them in Thy heart.

Keep them, and comfort them in hours of loneliness and pain, when all their lives of sacrifice for souls seems but in van.

Keep them, and O remember, Lord, they have no one but Thee, yet they have only human hearts, with human frailty.

Keep them as spotless as the Host, that daily they caress; their every thoughts and word and deed, Deign, dearest Lord, to bless.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS (St. Therese of Lisieux)

O Jesus, I pray for Your faithful and fervent priests; for Your unfaithful and tepid priests; for Your priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields; for Your tempted priests; for Your lonely and desolate priest; for Your young priests; for Your dying priests;

for the souls of Your priests in purgatory. But above all I recommend to You the priests dearest to me; the priest who baptized me; the priests who absolved me from my sins; the priests at whose Masses I assisted and who gave me Your Body and Blood in Holy communion; the priests who taught and instructed me; all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way. O Jesus, keep them all close to Your heart, and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity. Amen.

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS (By John Cardinal O'Connor, 1995)

Lord Jesus, we Your people pray to You for our priests. You have given them to us for our needs. We pray for them in their needs.

We know that You have made them priests in the likeness of your own priesthood. You have consecrated them, set them aside, anointed them, filled them with the Holy Spirit, appointed them to teach, to preach, to minister, to console, to forgive, and to feed us with Your Body and Blood.

Yet we know, too, that they are one with us and share our human weaknesses. We know too that they are tempted to sin and is encouragement as are we, needing to be ministered to, as do we, to be consoled and forgiven, as do we. Indeed, we thank You for choosing them from among us, so that they understand us as we

understand them, suffer with us and rejoice with us, worry with us and trust with us, share our beings, our lives, our faith.

We ask that You give them this day the gift You gave Your chosen ones on the way to Emmaus: Your presence in their hearts, Your holiness in their souls, Your joy in their spirits. And let them see You face to face in the breaking of the Eucharistic bread.

We pray to You, O Lord, through Mary the mother of all priests, for Your priests and for ours. Amen.

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

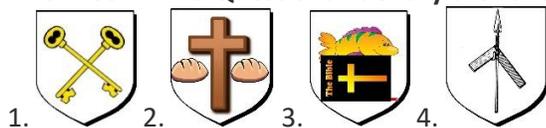
*See www.epiphanystl.org for more info, official rules, and to purchase your squares

Catholic Quiz

Last Week's Answers: Which one of the following does not belong and why?

1. A)Priest B)Deacon C)Monsignor D)Bishop (Monsignor is an honor title the others are sacramental)
2. A)Kansas City & St. Joseph B)St. Louis C)Springfield-Cape D) Jefferson City (St. Louis is an Archdiocese others are just diocese)
3. A)Eureka B)Webster C)Valley Park D)Troy (Webster does not have a Church named Sacred Heart)

This Week Trivia Questions: Identify the following Apostles by their Coat of Arms



CATHOLIC HUMOR

Catholic Laughs

Things You Never Hear in Church

- *Hey! It's my turn to sit in the front pew.
- *I was so enthralled, I never noticed your homily went over 25 minutes.
- *Personally I find door to door evangelizing much more enjoyable than golf.
- *I've decided to give our church the \$500 a month I used to send to TV evangelists.

- *I volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the Junior High Sunday School class.
- *I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!
- *Since we're all here, let's start the service early.
- *Pastor, we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas.
- *Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment to God like our annual stewardship campaign!

CATHOLIC QUOTES

“It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish.” -Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

“The human person is a good towards which the only proper attitude is love.” -Venerable John Paul II

“As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live.” -Venerable John Paul II

“Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought.” -Venerable John Paul II

“Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors to Christ.” - Venerable John Paul II

Fund-raising is a very concrete way to help the Kingdom of God come about. What is the Kingdom? Jesus is clear that if we make the Kingdom our first priority, “all these other things will be given you as well” (Mathew 6:33). The Kingdom is where God provides for all that we need. It is the realm of sufficiency where we are no longer pulled here and there by anxiety about having enough. “So do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself.” (Matt. 6:34) - Fr. Henri Nouwen. (Spiritual Writer)



Through the Annual Catholic Appeal, I am able to help build the kingdom of God by helping 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 5 – Developing Baby – “Mommy felt me kick today!” Spiritual Adoption Program

Your spiritually adopted baby weighs over one pound now, and his mother can feel his movement. Before this time, he was too small for her to feel. Although he swam with ease in his watery world, he needed to be big and strong enough to kick hard against the outside wall and dent it - - the inside wall of the uterus has little feeling. We are mid-way through the pregnancy now. Your prayers have helped your baby’s mother continue with her pregnancy and seek the help she needs.