

December 09, 2018 – Second Sunday of Advent



MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED
NOW AND FOREVER!!!

SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

Five Dysfunctions of a Team.

As we enter into the second week of December, we continue our look at Mr. Lencioni's book *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team: A Leadership Fable* and how it can help us develop healthy relationships with others. I still believe that these reflections will also be helpful to non-St. Joseph parishioners who regularly read my writings because most, if not all of us, find ourselves on different teams and the advice Patrick Lencioni gives will be helpful in dealing with the other people on your team and in making your teams more productive.

DYSFUNCTION 2: FEAR OF CONFLICT

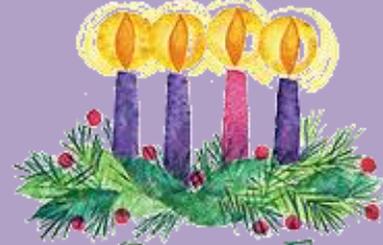
Patrick Lencioni starts off this chapter, talking about this dysfunction with a surprising statement that I had to read twice to make sure I truly understood what it was that he was trying to say. "All great relationships, the ones that last over time, require productive conflict in order to grow. This is true in marriage, parenthood, friendship, and certainly business."

The more and more I pondered that statement the more the validity of the statement began to assert itself. Dr. Gottmann who is considered an expert in relationships, makes the bold statement that it is not how much a couple argues that matters but HOW they argue that really matters. He encourages couples to argue with one another in a respectful way so that they can discover the answer or the best way to do something instead of spending time suffering from hurt feelings.

Patrick Lencioni makes an important distinction about conflicts in this chapter: "It is important to distinguish productive ideological conflict from destructive fighting and interpersonal politics. Ideological conflicts are limited to concepts and ideas and avoids personality-focused, mean-spirited attacks... But teams that engage in productive conflict know that the only purpose is to produce the best possible solution in the shortest amount of time. They discuss and resolve issues more quickly and completely than others, and they emerge from heated debates with no residual

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

A D V E N T



○ come · ○ come · Emmanuel

Sunday

Advent should contain frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.

Monday

Who are you bringing to Jesus today?

Tuesday

"It's sharing your gifts, not purchasing gifts... - Anonymous

Wednesday

What Have I Learned Dr. Albert Schweitzer

"If you have something difficult to do, don't expect people to roll stones out of your way. It is not necessary to go off on a tour of great cathedrals in order to find the Deity. Look within. You have to sit still to do it. Reverence for life is where religion and philosophy can meet and where society must try to go.

The misery I have seen gives me strength, and faith in others supports my confidence in the future."

feelings or collateral damage, but with an eagerness and readiness to take on the next important issue.”

I would tell people that I am interested in dialogue but I am not interested in conflict. For me dialogue means searching for the right answer or solution to a problem and conflict means turning the search for truth into a competition where people have to be right.

“Teams that engage in productive conflict know that the only purpose is to produce the best possible solution in the shortest period of time. They discuss and resolve issues more quickly and completely than others, and they emerge from heated debates with no residual feelings or collateral damage, but with an eagerness and readiness take on the next important task,” according to Patrick Lencioni.

How does a team handle conflict in a healthy way? First, teams must acknowledge that conflict can be healthy. People should not be afraid of new ideas or being challenged.

The second thing a team should do in order to get better at conflict is to look for it. Patrick Lencioni uses the term “mining”. He feels that team members should be able to challenge each other to speak up when they disagree. Teams need to create an environment where no one is put down for raising a question.

The third thing a team could do to get better at conflict is for team members to give each other real-time permission to present ideas, even if these ideas challenge them or the status quo. I think verbalizing this at the beginning of a meeting or the beginning of a specific topic can help with this also. Team members need to realize that they will only succeed as much as the team succeeds and if the team fail then they fail.

I would add a fourth thing to his list and that would team members need to realize that their identity as individuals comes from God not from worldly success.

Thursday

Does your soul proclaim God’s Greatness

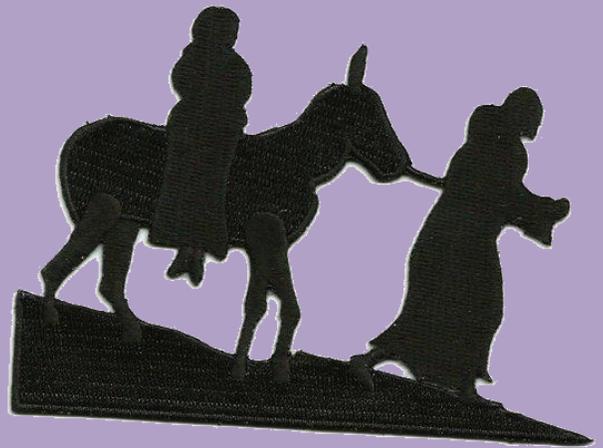
Friday

Let Light Shine . . . by Marianne Williamson

“As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”

Saturday

“‘I must do something’ will always solve more problems than ‘something must be done.’”



BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

December 9, 2018 Second Sunday of Advent Lectionary: 6 Gospel LK 3:1-6

Spiritual Reflection: Can you imagine the world without computers? They literally have changed the way we talk. How Things Change - A computer was something on TV From a science fiction show of note. A window was something you hated to clean. A ram was the cousin of a goat. Meg was the name of someone’s girlfriend. And a gig was a job for the nights. An application was for employment. A program was a TV show. A cursor used profanity. A keyboard was piano. Memory was something that you lost with age. A CD was a bank account. Compress was something you did to the garbage, not something you did to a file. And if you unzipped anything in public, you’d be in jail for a while. Log on was adding wood to the fire. Hard drive was a long trip on the road. A mouse pad was where a mouse lived. And a backup happened to your commode. Cut you did with a pocket knife. Paste you did with glue. A web was a spider’s home. And a virus was the flu. By Commix

Spiritual Questions:

1. Has my life been affected by the coming of Jesus?
2. Have other people's lives been effected by my life for the better?
3. What would people say was the "message of your life?"
4. What would you want people to know about Jesus?
5. How does your spot in history play a role in what God wants you to do in the world?
5. Why is it so hard to be vigilant?



ADVENT PRO-LIFE PRAYER: O shepherd of Israel, hearken, O guide of the flock of Joseph! Rouse your power, and come to save us from the culture of death O Lord of hosts, restore our nation to a nation that respects life in all its stages.

if your face shine upon us, then we shall be safe. O Lord of hosts, how long will you allow your people to contribute to the culture of death? You have fed them with the bread of heaven and given them your divine love to drink in ample measure. Help us to stop fighting over earthly goods and help us stand up for life even if our enemies mock us. O Lord of hosts, restore us, if your face shine upon us, then we shall be safe and we shall once again life in a culture of life.



Please join us in praying a special prayer each month for Catholics who have fallen away from their faith.

ADVENT PRAYER FOR FALLEN AWAY CATHOLICS: A Root shall come forth from the stock of Jesse And a Flower shall rise out of his root! And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him — the spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the spirit of counsel and of fortitude, the spirit of knowledge and of godliness. The people that walked in darkness shall see a great light, For a Child is born to us and a Son is given to us. To Him all power shall be given. His Name shall be: Wonderful One, Strong God, Eternal One, Prince of Peace. He shall sit on the throne of David, And He will found a new Covenant. May this Advent and Christmas Season be a time in which those who have fallen away from the faith may return. - Amen.

CATHOLIC PRAYER:

BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS TREE

Dear God, two thousand years ago, You brought Your Son, Jesus into this world to teach us the power of love and sacrifice. As we raise this tree, we remember His birth and the meaning of His life for us. Bless this tree as a symbol of our celebration of Jesus' birth and our gratitude for His sacrifice. May the joy this tree brings and the gifts we place under it remind us of the many gifts You have given us. We ask Your blessings upon our loved ones, this day and always. Amen.



This Week's Trivia

True or False

1. Mark is the Shortest of the Four Gospel
2. Mark has no Christmas Narrative
3. Mark travelled with bot Peter and Paul but at different times
4. Mark was one of the original 12 apostles



Last Week's Answer

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| 1. Petition | 2. Rock |
| 3. Pope | 4. Liturgy |
| A. Bishop of Rome | 3. Pope |
| B. Public Works | 4. Liturgy |
| C. Peter | 2. Rock |
| D. Supplication | 1. Petition |



BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS TREE

All glory and praise to You, Heavenly Father: we thank You for sending us Your Son Jesus to be our Brother. Bless + us as we gather here, and bless + our Christmas tree. Let its lights remind us of Jesus, who came to be the Light of the world and to save us from sin. Father, we love You, and we praise You through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS TREE

Holy Creator of Trees, bless with your abundant grace this our Christmas tree as a symbol of joy. May its evergreen branches be a sign of your never-fading promises. May its colorful lights and ornaments call us to decorate with love our home and our world. May the gifts that surround this tree be symbols of the gifts we have received from the Tree of Christ's Cross. Holy Christmas tree within our home, may Joy and Peace come and nest in your branches and in our hearts. Amen.

BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS TREE

Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night. We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures. We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son: he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Humor

